

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3A, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 7

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR¹⁵

Head Quarters, January 3, 1783.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 2d and 28th Ult^o with their enclosures, and have caused the amendment of the Ordnance respecting the Post Office to be made public agreeably to your request.

By the last Post I have received Letters from Major Holmer, Capt Williams, and Capt Kirkwood respecting their derangement: Copies of which I enclose: and have informed those Gentlemen that it was not expected by Congress in their Resolution of the 7th of Augst last, nor was it possible from the circumstances, that I should take any measures for compleating, or even doing any thing respecting the new Arrangement of any of the Lines, excepting those which are under my immediate command. It is for this reason I have referred them for further information to the Secy at War. I am etc.¹⁶

15. Maj. William Jackson.

16. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On January 4 Benjamin Walker wrote to Maj. William Jackson that Captain Second complains of being deranged and that Colonel Armand understood he had resigned. "The General wishes to be informed if this is true or if Capt. Second did not go out on the resolve of December." Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE AGENT OF MARINE

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Head Quarters, January 6, 1783.

Sir: The Officer who is the bearer of this, has in charge a number of Marine Prisoners, who were lately captured by a party of Troops on the Sound. There is amongst them one Hoit who has a Commission in the Refugee Corps, but who by his conduct in several instances since he was taken, particularly in attempting to induce Soldiers to desert, does not appear to be worthy of a Parole. Not knowing what was best to be done with these characters I have sent them to your Orders.

On this occasion I cannot forbear to mention the difficulties and irregularities which must frequently arise for the want of a Commissy of Naval Prisoners, or some person to transact his business at the Post of Dobbs' Ferry; since that has been

the only avenue of Communication by Flag, a number of Marine Prisoners have been sent to it, by the Executives of the several States from almost all parts of the Continent, and others have been sent out by the Enemy to the same place, for whom there was no person authorized to give Rects. and transmit the accounts to the proper Department. I conceive it necessary also you should be informed, that there are several instances where either Individuals, or particular States or Districts have sent gratuities in Money to be distributed amongst a certain number of the Prisoners; which it is much to be feared has and will be dissipated or misapplied, unless there is some person whose Province it shall be to superintend this and all the other concerns of our Marine Prisoners. A Gentleman from Masstts. with about 300 Guineas in Cash for some of the Prisoners of that State, has just gone to Dobbs Ferry to seek admission to the Enemy's Lines. I have written to Mr Skinner in consequence of your request, to deliver all the Papers &c. respecting Marine Prisoners to Mr Turner. With great esteem

PS Your favor of the 19th Ulto inclosing the Contract²⁰ has been duly recd.²¹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of the
20. The ration contract for the Army.

21. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Letter your Excellency did me the honor to write on the 25th December, and to assure you of the great satisfaction I experienced from the agreeable communications you had the goodness to make.²⁴

Enclosed your Excellency will find the original Certificate, which was given by Mr. Chittendon,²⁵ to the bearer of your Letter of the 11th Ult.

Nothing very interesting has happened since my last; a Fleet sailed a few days after from New York for Europe, and I am informed the Enemy are under apprehensions lest the French Fleet, which sailed two days after, should have fallen in with it. I am extremely anxious to hear from Charlestown; and still more so to know the result of the Negotiations on the other side the Atlantic, and shall therefore be much obliged by any information relative thereto. With the greatest respect etc.²⁶

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: When the Board of General Officers in Jany last regulated the number of Servants to be allowed to Officers, a larger number were allowed to the Cavalry than to the Infantry; this was not considered in the establishing the regulation for the subsistence to be paid to the Officers and in consequence

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24. The President of Congress had written: "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate your Excellency and the Army, on the admission of our Independency and National Character by the Court of Great Britain, in the issuing a Commission under the Great Seal to Mr. Oswald, now at the Court of Versailles."

25. Thomas Chittenden's receipt is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

26. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The draft, in the writing of David Humphreys, is dated Jan. 7, 1783.

complaints have already been made to me that for this extra number of Servants without Arms they can neither draw provisions or Subsistence. As I suppose it is owing rather to omission than to any intention of lessening the number then allow'd I have given the Pay Master orders to pay the Officers of the Cavalry agreeable to the regulation of Jany last, untill your further directions should be given to him. I have the honor etc.30

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 10th. with its several enclosures.

I am pleased to learn that all the Cloathing on hand was to be forwarded last week. I hope no accident has intervened to prevent it; and that the number of shirts will be augmented so as to give every Man two including those lately sent on; this, from the encouragement which had been given, I have assured the Army will be the case. I am etc.50

30. The draft, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, is inadvertently dated 1782.

50. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the rect. of your two favors of the 27 and 31st. December and to acquaint you that agreeably to the latter I have drawn on you in favor of Mr. Andrew Billings for forty Guineas for the purposes specified in the draft.

Inclosed is copy of an application made to me by Colo. Varick on the subject of Pay for his Writers; this business is getting into such a state of forwardness that I am in hopes Colo Varick will soon be able to continue it with only one Writer; twentyseven large folio Volumes are now nearly compleated.

Mr. Skinner who passed here lately informs me that he has sent to Mr. Turner all the papers he had in his possession relative to the department of Naval Prisoners. With great Esteem etc.⁹³

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

Sir: I have the melancholy task before me, of acquainting your Excellency and Congress of the death of Major

⁹³. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

General Lord Stirling. The remarkable bravery, intelligence, and promptitude of his Lordship to perform his duty as an Officer, had endeared him to the whole Army; and now make his loss the more sincerely regretted.

In consequence of the resolution of Congress of the 27th of Novembr., for apprehending Luke Knowlton of Newfane, and Samuel Welles of Brattleborough I wrote on the 9 of

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December to Lord Stirling who commanded at the Northward, giving the necessary advices and instructions, and committing the execution of that business to his Lordships discretion. By the enclosed report of Captain McComber⁷⁷ of the Rhode Island Regiment, the Officer employed on this service, I doubt not Congress will be convinced, that the measures adopted by my Lord, and the conduct of Captain Macomber in consequence thereof, were very judiciously calculated to carry their resolution into effect, notwithstanding they have failed of success.⁷⁸ As the real object still remains a secret, the Letter I had directed to be delivered Mr. Chittendon, as soon as Knowlton and Welles should be apprehended, has been suppressed; so that, should it be thought requisite to make another Effort hereafter, the probability of succeeding in apprehending the persons in question, will not be lessened by the former attempt. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I am honored with your Letter of the 16th. and thank you for the important intelligence contained in it.⁷⁹

77. Capt. Ebenezer Macomber (McCumber). He served to March, 1783.

78. A copy of Captain Macumber's report to Stirling (Jan. 7, 1783) is filed with this letter from Washington, in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

79. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your favor of the 20th inst. enclosing the Copy of a Letter to the Pay Mastr General; the subject of yours has been communicated to Mr Flint¹⁹ principal Agt for the Contractors with the Army, who assures me there is no doubt every facility will be given by them to the circulation of the Notes in contemplation to be issued. With sentiments of Esteem etc.²⁰

19. Royal Flint.

20. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 30, 1783.

Sir: I should not have undertaken at this time to Address myself, through Your Excellency, to Congress, on the present state of our Military and Political Affairs (which are so blended as scarcely to admit of separation in the discussion) did I not apprehend my silence might perhaps be construed into remissness of my Official duties, or inattention to the public interests; and that some inconveniences might be experienced by the neglect or delay. Influenced by these motives, and an ardent desire to carry the wishes of Congress into effect, I shall hope to be excused, (after suggesting a few things) for entreating to be made acquainted, so far as may be deemed expedient, with their Sentiments and expectations relative to our future Military Operations.

It scarcely need be remarked here, as it is a fact of great notoriety, that the tranquility, leisure, and inactivity of Winter Quarters have ever been considered by all well-informed Warlike Nations, when in a state of Hostility, as the only proper Season for taking into contemplation the probable operations of the ensuing Campaign, and for making the best arrangements in their power for carrying such projects as were finally determined upon into execution. It was not simply in conformity with this practice, but upon a perfect conviction of the propriety and expediency of it, that, at the close of all my former Campaigns, I have thought

myself not only warranted, but impelled by the strongest dictates of reason and duty to exert all my influence and abilities in endeavouring to augment our force, and to make the greatest possible provision in every Department, for enabling us to act with vigor at the opening of the next Campaign: And in thus attempting to perform my duty I derived no

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small share of satisfaction from a consciousness that I should meet with the approbation and assistance of my Country; at the sametime, being so fully acquainted with the designs of the Enemy on the one hand, and with the inclinations of Congress on the other, that I could not hesitate a moment in my own mind, to decide what general system of measures was proper to be adopted. But as the complexion of our Political and Military Affairs is now entirely changed by the Negotiations for Peace which are carrying on in Europe, as Congress have determined by the reduction which has lately taken place that the number of Men engaged on the present Establishments are adequate to the Services before us, and as that Honble. Body have much better opportunities than any Individual can have, for collecting and comparing the intelligence necessary to judge with a degree of certainty whether Peace will be concluded in the course of the Winter so as to supercede the necessity of any farther Military preparations; I could not think myself at liberty (without having recourse to their Sentiments) to take the same measures, and give the same Orders, I had on all former occasions deemed myself competent to; on the contrary, I feared to delay any longer to express my apprehensions, that very fair opportunities might be lost, and that very great if not i

rreparable injuries might be experienced, (if the War should be continued, especially if it should begin to rage again), in case we should not also on our part be in a state of preparation for such an event.

In addition to every other consideration of a Foreign, a Military, or Political nature, the embarrassed State of our Finances, the necessity of using the strictest œconomy, and preventing every unnecessary expenditure of public money in conducting our Military Affairs; have, in an especial manner, prompted me to make this representation; that the Sovereign power may determine what is the proper line of conduct to be pursued, under our present circumstances, whether any or what preparation ought to be made during the Winter, and what our situation will be at the period proper for opening the Campaign (supposing the War should continue and require any offensive operations on our part) unless many of the *essential Articles* which are wanting, particularly in the Quarter Masters

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Department, should in the meantime be effectually and fully supplied. Amongst the most indispensable and yet most expensive of which I beg leave to mention the means of Transportation, viz Horses for Artillery, Teams and Wheel Carriages for Ordnance, Stores, and Baggage; without which, it is well known an Army becomes totally helpless and totally harmless; for so far from being able to annoy and operate against its Enemy, it is neither able to take the Field, to advance or retire a single step, let the occasions or prospects be of a Nature ever so pressing and important.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing observations, I hope it will be clearly understood, that it is very far from being my Wish or desire that our Military preparations should be increased in the smallest degree beyond what the exigence of the Circumstances may appear to demand. But while I candidly confess that I believe there is no Man who more earnestly wishes a speedy period may be put to the contest, than myself; I must take the liberty to suggest whether (in case a Peace shd. not take place in consequence of the present Negotiations) it would not be far more eligible in point of National policy and Oeconomy to attempt by one great and decisive effort to expel the Enemy from the remaining part of their possessions in the United States, than to suffer them with their enfeebled force to hold a Post and protract the War, untill the accumulating expences of our languid and defensive measures only, shall amount to such an agregate sum as would have furnished the means for attempting the Siege of New York with a prospect of success.

In order that your Excellency and Congress may have as comprehensive and compleat a view of our efficient force, our Military apparatus, and the principal Articles which would be required for a vigorous Campaign I have thought it expedient to forward the Inclosed returns and Estimates (the Estimate of the Engineers is omitted because the Articles in his Department will be principally provided by the labors of the Army) and I flatter

myself it will be found that the Troops under my Orders are at this moment as much collected, and as well appointed as could possibly be expected under our circumstances,

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and that all the means which have been afforded, so far as depended upon Military arrangements, have been œconomised in the most prudent manner. I shall wait with great solicitude to hear the Sentiments, expectations and final pleasure of Congress, on the several points contained in this Letter. And in the meantime I have the honor &c.

PS. I have directed the Troops of Pensyla., Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, except the Legionary Corps, to be comprehended in the Qr. Masters Estimate, as they would undoubtedly be employed with this Army in case of any serious operation.²³

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I have the honour to acknowledge the recpt. of your Letter of the 28th January, inclosing one thousand Dollars (in Notes) for Colo. Varick, whose receipt shall be obtained and transmitted agreeably to your desire.

I cannot omit mentioning, that the Officer of the detachment sent from Phila. with Marine Prisoners, Reports,

23. Indorsed by Charles Thomson "Secret. Read Feby 11, 1783. Referred to Mr [Alexander] Hamilton Mr [Richard] Peters Mr [Theodorick] Bland Mr [John] Rutledge Mr [Thomas] Mifflin The returns as well as the Contents of the letter to be kept secret." The returns are not with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. (See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Feb. 20, 1783.)

that no arrangement having been made for their subsistence on the Road, both Guard and Prisoners were in the most distressed situation for want of Provisions. With great regard etc.³²

To JONATHAN ARNOLD³³

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Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received the Letter you was pleased to address to me on the 28th of Janry.³⁴

I beg you will be persuaded, Sir, that I have not accustomed myself to form opinions upon partial representations, or reports of any kind whatever, until the characters concerned have had an opportunity of contradicting and refuting them; it was not because I gave implicit credence to that part of Capt Macomber's report which affected your reputation, that I enclosed it without alteration to the President of Congress; but because it came into my hands [from the Officer Commandg in the Northern Departm.] Officially, and I thought your own reputation and my duty required, that I should Act in the matter, as I have done.

You may be assured, Sir, that No apology was necessary for your application, and that I am etc.³⁵

32. The text is from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

33. Rhode Island Delegate to Congress.

34. Arnold had written (January 28): "The peculiarly delicate situation in which I am placed by the said report, will I hope render an Apology for this, and such further Applications as [shall be necessitated to make, in developing this at present dark and mysterious affair, unnecessary." Arnold's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

35. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, February 5, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 27th. of January is received.

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In answer to that part of your Letter of the 15 January, which respects the appointment of a Brigadier for the State of Connecticut I am to observe that when the Secretary at War was at Verplanks point last fall it was agreed to be the best plan for future Promotions to divide the Continent into districts and when a Vacancy happened for a General Officer the oldest Officer in the district should fill it. All the New England States compose one district, in which Massachusetts has three Brigades Connecticut one, and the Troops of New Hampshire and Rhode Island may after their reduction compose another; the four former Brigades have their Brigadiers and if General Stark is to remain in Service, he will undoubtedly claim the latter, in that case there is no Vacancy; but should General Stark from ill health, or any of the causes which have kept him so long at home, be unable to continue, his retiring will make a Vacancy for Colonel Swift, who is the oldest Colonel in the District; Colonel Swift is a very deserving Officer and would do honor to the appointment.

As you may not have been able to collect from my Letter to General Green so full an account of the disposition of his Troops as you wish I am now to inform you that it is proposed to retain to the southward for the present, the Virginia Cavalry and Lees

Legion; One compleat Regiment of Maryland and one of Pensilvania; the remainder of the Infantry Northward of the Carolina's are to be sent to their respective States to recruit. I am
&c.42

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Newburgh, February 11, 1783.

Sir: Within these few days I have seen Printed copies of "A remonstrance of the Council of the State of Vermont, against the Resolutions of Congress of the 5th. of December last,"⁶⁹ Addressed to your Excellency; in which are several quotations from a letter of mine.

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Duty as well as inclination prompts me to lay before Congress the whole of that Letter; and the one to which it was an answer.

If it should be necessary, a Committee of Congress with whom I was in conference on these matters in the course of last Winter, can give such further information on this subject as I doubt not will be satisfactory. I have the honr. etc.⁷⁰

42. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

69. See *Vermont Historical Society, Collections*, vol. 2, p. 315, *et seq.*

70. In the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 40, vol. II, fol. 365. A copy of Washington's letter of Jan. 1, 1782, to Thomas Chittenden. is filed with this letter from Washington, which is indorsed by Charles Thomson: "Read Feby 17. 1783 Referred to Mr [Daniel] Carroll Mr [Nathaniel] Gorham Mr [Arthur] Lee Mr [John Taylor] Gilman Mr [Oliver] Wolcott."

***QUERIES SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR**

February 17, 1783.

1st. Is the reduction of the Lines of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and New Jersey to take place on the 1st. March?⁹⁰

2. In that case shall the Troops of New Hampshire be organized into one Regiment of 500 Rank and file, and the residue formed into one compleat Battalion of four Companies and the Troops of Jersey the same? or what mode shall be adopted.⁹¹

3d. Will it not be best to reform Hazen's Regiment immediately and put it upon the same Establishment as the rest of the Army ?⁹²

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4th. Should not every possible effort be made to furnish Scarlet cloth for facings and other Materials for turning the present Coats of the Army?93

5. The German Armourers Cartridge Boxes, Colours &c should be sent on?94

90. To this the Secretary answered "Yes."

91. The answer was: Four complete companies to make one battalion; the others into one regiment.

92. The answer was: Yes.

93. The answer was: "I will leave no measure untried to Effect it."

94. The answer was: The German armorers have been sent for; cartridge boxes are being made and repaired; and colors will be sent on. "I wish they were better than they are."

6. It seems necessary that something should be done towards regulating the Issues of Provision to the Canadian Refugees And is Colo. Antills family entitled to draw, under that denomination.95

95. The answer was: A officer should investigate and superintend the business. Will investigate the Antill matter.

7. By whom are Officers to be appointed to the Sappers and Miners. Are the three Companies to be reduced to one. Mr. Reckless96 a Volunteer in that Corps wishes an Appointment.97

8. The Inspectors cannot do the duty of their department, if provision is not made to pay their contingent Expences.98

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9. What should be done with Captain Sumners⁹⁹ demand for forage whilst he commanded a Regiment and other Cases of a similar Nature¹

10. Cannot something be done for Mr. Griswold,² whose Case is explained in his Letter and Colo. Huntingtons³ annexed; a transference to the Corps of Invalids would save him from Starving.⁴

96. Lieut. Anthony Reckless. He was given the rank of lieutenant in 1780 in the Sappers and Miners, and served to the close of the war.

97. The answer was: Would have to defer an answer until he returned to Philadelphia.

98. The answer was: That he will attempt to have the money advanced.

99. Capt. Job Sumner, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed major in March, 1783, to rank from October, 1782, and served to June, 1784.

1. The answer was: A matter to be settled by the Quartermaster General.

2. Lieut. Andrew Griswold, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He had been wounded at Germantown in October, 1777, and resigned in July, 1782.

3. Col. Ebenezer Huntington's letter is not now found.

4. The answer was: Griswold to receive rations until Congress acts on his and other similar cases. "I will report it to Congress."

The entire document, both queries and answers, is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

The answers of the Secretary at War are in a parallel column and signed by Lincoln. The document is dated by Washington.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Library of Congress

Head Quarters, February 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: When you passed the Army in December I believe you was fully impressed with the necessity of furnishing at least one pair of Woolen overalls pr man; the necessity is daily increasing, for the building of the Hutts has almost entirely destroyed their last Years breeches; I must therefore again take the liberty to urge in the strongest terms that a supply of this Article may be sent on as soon as possible. The Officers are making every possible exertion, to put the old Cloathing into as good a state as it will admit, to give it a tolerably decent appearance. The scarlet Cloth for facings &c will be wanted.

I have repeatedly pressed the sending on a farther Supply of Shirts, so as to compleat each Man to two a principle of œconomy (if there was no other consideration) would induce this, for without a Change, the one Shirt will soon be rotted off their backs.

You mentioned when here that you would furnish me with a Return of the Ordnance Stores on hand in the several Magazines of the United States. I wish to remind you of this. with very great regard etc.

P.S. Your Letter of the 19 inclosing the contracts is received.²⁷

27. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: Some complaints having been made respecting the quality of the Beef lately issued to the Troops, and the Contractors (whose conduct has been perfectly satisfactory) haveing solicited, that a Person should be appointed to inspect it in future, previous to delivery. I have therefore this day appointed for this purpose, Majr Henry Wykoff³² of Fishkill until your pleasure should be known, of which I thought it necessary to advise you by the first

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opportunity, that he might either continue to act with your approbation, or be superseded by the appointment of an Inspector of Contracts as should be judged most eligible and advantageous to the public Service.

[It is incumbent on me to add, that, Majr. Wikoff (who is a refugee from New York) is an entire stranger to me. that he views his appointment as P. T. only; that he was recommended by Mr. Parker (one of the Contractors) who, himself, previous to the appointment, had condemned a large quantity of Beef wch. had been slaughtered and was ready to Issue.] I have the honor &c.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I am favored with your Letter of the 17th. instant. Inclosed is the Copy of a Letter from Mr Comfort Sands, with the Ansr. I have forwarded to him by this conveyance also Colonel Varicks Duplicate Receipts for One thousand Dollars.³³

32. Hendrick Wyckoff.

33. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 26, 1783.

Sir: I am sorry to have to acquaint your Excellency, for the information of Congress, that a project which I had formed for attacking the Enemys Post at Oswego, as soon as the Sleighing should be good, and the Ice of the Oneida Lake should have acquired sufficient thickness to admit the passage of the Detachment, has miscarried. The report of Colol. Willet, to whom I had entrusted the Command of the Party (consisting of a part of the Rhode Island Regiment and the State Troops of New York, in all about 500 Men) will assign reasons for the disappointment.³⁹

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Altho the Expedition has not been attended with success, the Officers and Soldiers employed on it, are entitled to great credit, for the Spirit, Activity and patience exhibited by them in the course of the attempt, and I am certain nothing that depended upon Colonel Willett to give efficacy to it, was wanting.

Major Talmadge, whom I had placed on the Sound, with the Infantry of Sheldons Legion, for the purpose of interrupting as much as possible on that side, the Trade with New York, has been more successful, as will appear by his report, a Copy of which is likewise inclosed.⁴⁰ The zeal and activity of Major Talmadge and the promptness and bravery of the party acting under his orders on this occasion, have merited and received my thanks. The Detachments also belonging to the

39. The expedition failed through the ignorance or fault of the Indian guide, who did not bring the troops to Fort Oswego until daylight had come, rendering a surprise impossible. A copy of Willett's letter (February 19) to Washington accompanies this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

40. A copy of Tallmadge's letter (February 21) is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

command of Brigr. General Hazen, which are occasionally advanced to Bergen, New Ark, Elizabeth Town &c to intercept the illicit commerce in that quarter, appear to have been very alert, and they have succeeded in several instances. I flatter myself Congress will be persuaded, nothing on my part has been omitted to carry fully into execution their Resolution of the 30th of October last; but at the same time I am under the necessity to declare in my own vindication, that unless the Civil Powers of the different States will adopt the most energetic measures and make the greatest exertions to carry them into effect it will be impossible to put a stop to an evil which has increased to an alarming height and which (notwithstanding all our efforts) is still increasing and I am informed prevails no

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where in such an uncontroled manner as on the Sea Coast of Connecticut. I have the honor etc.⁴¹

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

(Private)

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

My Dr. Sir: I believe it was mentioned when you was at Head Qrs that Majr Villefrance had made application for promotion. I have declined in this and all similar instances to use my influence directly with Congress to obtain Rank for Gentlemen who solicited it, out of the common course of promotion, because I wished, in the first place that Honble Body might decide

41. In the writing of David Cobb.

according to their own pleasure, and in the second that I might not be harrassed by a multitude of useless and improper applications. Tho' I foresee this may in some degree be the case if Major Villefrance succeeds, yet I cannot conceal my sentiments in his favor (which indeed I have expressed very fully in a Certificate which has been given him) and should not his promotion involve any very troublesome consequences of this kind, I wish with all my heart it might take place. I am etc.⁴³

To JONATHAN ARNOLD

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 11 february.

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The detail I gave in my Letter to you of the 5 february respecting the transmission of Cap McCombers report was not occasioned by any thing contained in your Letter, but only from a wish that my proceedings in the matter might be perfectly understood by you.

I now inclose you Copy of the Answers of Capt. McComber to the interrogatories you was pleased to put to him thro' me.⁸⁶ I have the honor &c.⁸⁷

43. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

86. Macomber's answers are in the *Washington Paper*, under date of Feb. 27, 1783.

87. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 7, 1783.

Sir: Repeated Applications have been made to me, in favor of Major Villefranche, and Capt L'Enfant, of the Corps of Engineers, for their individual promotion; and being again pressed upon me, by Major Genl Duportail, I take the Liberty, thro your Excellency, to submit to Congress, whether some general principles of promotion, applicable to this Corps, as well as others in the Army, might not be established, which may prevent the necessity of particular applications, and the Embarrassment of giving promotion out of its common Course.

The Gentlemen mentioned, are furnished with my Certificates, expressive of the Ideas I have entertained of their individual Merits and Services; which are such as, in my opinion, would entitle them to promotion, should Congress judge it can be done upon consistent principles, and such as will not involve future Inconvenience. Their own Memorials, which I expect will be presented to Congress, will show the Claims of the Gentlemen entertain from the length of their Services.

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I have the Honor etc.⁹⁷

97. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull jr.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 7, 1783.

Sir: While applications are making in favor of others, I cannot refrain from mentioning to Congress, the Case of Colo Armand, with respect to promotion. Justice to that Gentleman, obliges me to express the Esteem I have of him, as an intelligent, active and very deserving Officer; one who has been zealous in the Service of the United States, and who, I am persuaded, has expended considerable Sums for the Establishment of his Corps and other ways, for which he probably⁹⁵ will not be reimbursed for some time, if he expects ever to be refunded.

I take particular pleasure in pointing the Attention of Congress to Colo Armand, as his Character and Merits have gained my Respect; and his promotion, I think, may take place without Inconvenience, he [being among the oldest Colonels in the Service of the United States, and belonging to no district of them, never can be provided for under the] late Regulations for promotion adopted by Congress. With great Respect etc.⁹⁶

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Sir: Very painful Sensations are excited in

95. The draft has the following, at this point, in the writing of Washington, "will be a considerable time out of if he."

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96. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, which ends “the Ordinance of the of last.”

Washington inclosed this letter to Congress in a brief note to Colonel Armand, dated March 7, under a flying seal, that Armand might read and forward it. “If it shall prove of any Service to you, It will afford me very particular Satisfaction.” This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

my Mind by your Letter of the 27th. of Feby. It is impossible for me to express to you the Regret, with which I received the Information it contains.²

I have often reflected, with much Solitude, upon the disagreeableness of your Situation and the Negligence of the several States, in not enabling you to do that Justice to the public Creditors, which their Demands require. I wish the Step you have taken, may sound the Alarm to their inmost Souls, and rouse them to a just Sense of their own Interest, honor and Credit. But I must confess to you, that I have my fears, [for as danger becomes further removed from them] their feelings seem to be more callous to those noble Sentiments, with which I could wish to see them inspired, mutual Jealousies, local prejudices, and misapprehensions have taken such deep Root, as will not easily be removed.

Notwithstanding the Embarrassments which you have experienced, I was in hopes that you would have continued your Efforts to the Close of the War, at least; but if your Resolutions are absolutely fixed, I assure you I consider the Event, as one of the most unfortunate that could have fallen upon the States, and most sincerely deprecate the sad Consequences which I fear will follow. The Army, I am sure, at the same Time that they entertain the highest Sense of your Exertions, will lament the Step you are obliged to take, as a most unfortunate Circumstance to them. I am &c.³

2. The resignation of Morris as Superintendent of Finance.

3. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 11, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your several Letters of 26th feby. 1st, 4 and 4th of March.

I know no Objections to the Arrangement of the Virginia Line, as transmitted to me from your Office. It has my Approbation, and may pass into Record.

Whatever of Cloathg can be obtained for the Army, I wish to have forwarded with as much Dispatch as possible. Mr Morris, knowg your Circumstances, and his own Abilities or rather Disability to satisfy the numerous Demands upon his Office, must be his own Judge, how far he can comply with our Wants. I wish you to urge the Request of the Army, so far as his Situation, and our necessities (which you know are exceedg great) will justify. I am loth to press him myself.

Colo Armands Corps will be of no use at present on the North River, and it would be extremely difficult and expensive to support them here. I do not think therefore of complying to the Suggestion of the Baron for their moving this Way at this Moment; unless it should be found that their Supplies could be obtained with less Expencc to the Public, at Burlington, or some other place in the Jersies, than where they now are, and you should think proper, for that Reason, to remove them; in which case I have no Objection to your Ordering them to such Situation: where

they would be at hand on a Short Notice to be called to the Army, should Circumstances require it.

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The Standards, I have found, by examining, to be in the Care of Mr. Frothingham,¹⁵ F. C. of Military Stores. Your Intimation in your last, was the first Notice, I had, of their being near me. I am &c.¹⁶

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: It is with inexpressible concern, I make the followg Report to your Excellency.

Two Days ago, anonymous papers were circulated in the Army, requesting a general meeting of the Officers on the next Day. A Copy of one of these papers is inclosed, No. 1.¹⁸ About the same Time, another anonymous paper purporting to be an Address to the Officers of the Army, was handed about in a clandestine manner: a Copy of this is mark'd No 2¹⁹ To prevent any precipitate and dangerous Resolutions from being taken at this perilous moment, while the passions were all inflamed; as soon as these things came to my knowledge, the next Mornng. I issued the inclosed Order No. 3.²⁰ And in this situation the Matter now rests.

As all opinion must be suspended

15. Richard Frothingham.

16. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

18. Inclosure No. 1 proposed that a meeting of the general and field officers be held at the public building on Tuesday (March 11) next. at 11 o'clock "to obtain that redress of Grievances, which they seem to have solicited in vain." The original of No. 1 is in the *Washington Papers*.

19. Inclosure No. 2 was an address to the officers of the Army urging a bolder, firmer tone with Congress, "That in any political Event. the Army has its Alternative: If Peace, that

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nothing shall separate you from your Arms but Death. If War, that courting the Auspices, and inviting the Direction of your Illustrious Leader, you will retire to some yet unsettled Country, Smile in your Turn. and mock when their fear cometh on." The original of No. 2 seems to have been sent. by mistake, to Congress.

20. Inclosure No. 3 was a copy of the General Orders of Mar. 11, 1783.

until after the meeting on Saturday, I have nothing further to add, except a Wish, that the measures I have taken to dissipate a Storm, which had gathered so suddenly and unexpectedly, may be acceptable to Congress: and to assure them, that in every vicissitude of Circumstances, still actuated with the greatest zeal in their Service, I shall continue my utmost Exertions to promote the welfare of my Country under the most lively Expectation, that Congress have the best Intentions of doing ample Justice to the Army, as soon as Circumstances will possibly admit. With the highest Respect etc.

PS. Since writing the foregoing another anonymous paper is put in Circulation, Copy of which is inclosed, No. 421

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose you a return of the Canadians who are drawing Provisions in this Department from the Public, and as it falls to my lot to sign their provision returns I will be much obliged to you for some directions respecting them; there seems something improper in their present manner of drawing; you will observe that some draw one and a half two and three Rations each for themselves besides drawing for

21. Inclosure No. 4 was the anonymous address of March 12.

In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on March 17 and referred to John Taylor Gilman, Eliphalet Dyer, Abraham Clark, John Rutledge,

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and John Francis Mercer. The appointment "of these Gentlemen was brought about by a few members who wished to saddle with this embarrassment the men who had opposed the measures necessary for satisfying the army, viz. the half pay and permanent funds; against one or other of which the individuals in question had voted." Madison further recorded that "the steps taken by the General to avert the gathering storm and his professions of inflexible adherence to his duty to Congress and to his Country, excited the most affectionate sentiments towards him....[The situation] gave peculiar awe and solemnity to the present moment, and oppressed the minds of Congs. with an anxiety and distress which had been scarcely felt in any period of the revolution." From Madison's "Notes of Debates in the Continental Congress," dated Mar. 17, 1783 (*Journals of the Continental Congress*).

their families; is this right? or are they all to be considered alike, as refugees, and draw only one ration each agreeably to the Resolve of 10 November 80. Boileau,⁷ Guilmat⁸ and ferriol⁹ have your Particular order, on which they draw Subsistence money and do not draw Provision.

When the Abstracts for extra issues made here come before you will observe that the greatest part of those issues should have been included in the Regimental abstracts. The Men drawn for by Genl. Howe and Hand particularly the Men belonged to many different Regiments and being included in one Voucher, no individual Commanding Officer would certify for his Men because the Voucher could not be left with him as the Certificate expresses, this obliged their being thrown into the abstract for extra issues. Some of the other issues in those Abstracts appear to have been improper and the Genl has ordered an enquiry into them. With great respect etc.¹⁰

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

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Sir: I feel myself happy in having an opportunity, by this Letter, of introducing to your personal acquaintance Mr. Parker, one of the Contractors for this Army, the bearer of it; whose character as a Gentleman of amiable manners and

7. Pierre Amable Boileau. He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and had retired in January, 1782.

8. Francis Guilmat (Gilmant, Gilman). He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and had been omitted in May, 1782.

9. Alexander Ferriol. He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and was retired in January, 1782.

10. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

dispositions, and as a Man of great integrity and capacity in business will have preceded him, and almost supersedes the necessity of my repeating that the business of the present Contract has been performed extremely to the satisfaction of the Army; his Merits, I am persuaded, will procure him the attentions, to which he is entitled by them.

Whatever may be judged most expedient by yourself and the Contractors relatively to an Inspector, will be perfectly acquiesced in by me.

Mr Parker has some proposals to make to you respecting advancing a Month's pay to the Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers in Merchandize, by which he thinks the payment may be made very acceptable and useful to them, and the terms of it extremely easy to the Public. Not wishing to interfere in a matter out of my proper sphere, I could only give him my fullest approbation of the Measure, if it should actually be made a matter of agreement between you and him and between him and the Army. As I was perfectly sensible (in case this Plan could be accomplished without interfering with other Arrangements) that it would in some measure ansr the double purpose of paying

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and clothing the Troops, so far as such a sum could be made to extend in procuring Necessaries for them; but of the practicability of it, I would not pretend to determine. With perfect esteem etc.²²

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 16, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to inform your Excellency, for the satisfaction of Congress, that the meeting of the Officers, which was mentioned in my last, has been held Yesterday: and, that it has terminated in a manner, which I had reason to expect, from a knowledge of that good Sense and steady Patriotism of the Gentlemen of the Army, which, on frequent Occasions, I have discovered.

The Report of the Meeting, with the other papers, which will be necessary to accompany it, I shall do myself the Honor to transmit to Congress, as soon as they can possibly be prepared. With the highest Respect etc.³⁹

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 18, 1783.

Sir: The result of the proceedings of the grand Convention of the Officers, which I have the honor of enclosing to your Excellency for the inspection of Congress, will, I flatter myself, be considered as the last glorious proof of Patriotism which could

39. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

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have been given by Men who aspired to the distinction of a patriot Army; and will not only confirm their claim to the justice, but will increase their title to the gratitude of their Country.⁴⁰

Having seen the proceedings on the part of the Army terminate with perfect unanimity, and in a manner entirely consonant to my wishes; being impressed with the liveliest sentiments of affection for those who have so long, so patiently and so chearfully suffered and fought under my immediate direction; having from motives of justice, duty and gratitude, spontaneously offered myself as an advocate for their rights; and having been requested to write to your Excellency earnestly entreating the most speedy decision of Congress upon the subjects of the late Address from the Army to that Honble. Body, it now only remains for me to perform the task I have assumed, and to intercede in their behalf, as I now do, that the Sovereign Power will be pleased to verify the predictions I have pronounced of, and the confidence the Army have reposed in the justice of their Country.

And here, I humbly conceive it is altogether unnecessary, (while I am pleading the cause of an Army which have done and suffered more than any other Army ever did in the defence of the rights and liberties of human nature,) to expatiate on their *Claims* to the most ample compensation for their meritorious Services, because they are perfectly known to the whole World, and because, (altho' the topics are inexhaustible) enough has already been said on the subject.

40. Ford prints from a letter from Maj. J. A. Wright to Maj. John Webb, from West Point, Mar. 16, 1783, the following: "Yesterday there was a meeting of the officers. The Commander in Chief came among us, and made a most excellent address; he appeared sensibly agitated; as the writer advises to 'suspect the man who should advise to more moderation and longer forbearance,' this expression, together with a second anonymous letter, which I have not seen, gave reason to suppose that it was a plan laid against his Excellency, as every one who knows him must be sensible that he would recommend

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moderation. The general having finished his address, retired. Gen'l Gates took the chair; the business of the day was conducted with order, moderation, and decency."

To prove these assertions, to evince that my sentiments have ever been uniform, and to shew what my ideas of the rewards in question have always been, I appeal to the Archives of Congress, and call on those sacred deposits to witness for me. And in order that my observations and Arguments in favor of a future adequate provision for the Officers of the Army may be brought to remembrance again, and considered in a single point of view without giving Congress the trouble of having recourse to their files, I will beg leave to transmit herewith an Extract from a representation made by me to a Committee of Congress so long ago as the 29th of January 1778.⁴¹ and also the transcript, of a Letter to the President of Congress, dated near Passaic Falls Octr. 11th. 1780⁴² That in the critical and perilous moment when the last mentioned communication was made, there was the utmost danger of a dissolution of the Army would have taken place unless measures similar to those recommended had been adopted, will not admit a doubt. That the adoption of the Resolution granting half-pay for life has been attended with all the happy consequences I had foretold, so far as respected the good of the service; let the astonishing contrast between the State of the Army at this instant, and at the former period determine. And that the establishment of funds, and security of the payment of all the just demands of the Army will be the most certain means of preserving the National faith and future tranquillity of this extensive Continent, is my decided opinion.

By the preceeding remarks it will readily

41. See Washington's letter to the Committee of Congress with the Army, Jan. 29 1778, *ante*.

42. See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Oct. 11, 1780, *ante*.

be imagined that instead of retracting and reprehending (from farther experience and reflection) the mode of compensation so strenuously urged in the Inclosures, I am more

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and more confirmed in the Sentiment, and if in the wrong suffer me to please myself with the grateful delusion.

For if, besides the simple payment of their Wages, a farther compensation is not due to the sufferings and sacrifices of the Officers, then have I been mistaken indeed. If the whole Army have not merited whatever a grateful people can bestow, then have I been beguiled by prejudice, and built opinion on the basis of error. If this Country should not in the Event perform every thing which has been requested in the late Memorial to Congress, then will my belief become vain, and the hope that has been excited void of foundation. And "if, (as has been suggested for the purpose of inflaming their passions) the Officers of the Army are to be the only sufferers by this resolution [*sic*]; if retiring from the Field, they are to grow old in poverty wretchedness and contempt. If they are to wade thro' the vile mire of dependency and owe the miserable remnant of that life to charity, which has hitherto been spent in honor,"⁴³ then shall I have learned what ingratitude is, then shall I have realized a tale, which will imbitter every moment of my future life. But I am under no such apprehensions, a Country rescued by their Arms from impending ruin, will never leave unpaid the debt of gratitude.

Should any intemperate or improper warmth have mingled itself amongst the foregoing

43. Quoted from the "First Anonymous Newburgh Address," where the word copied by Washington as "resolution" is correctly written "revolution."

observations, I must entreat your Excellency and Congress it may be attributed to the effusion of an honest zeal in the best of Causes, and that my peculiar situation may be my apology. And I hope I need not, on this momentuous occasion make any new protestations of personal disinterestedness, having ever renounced for myself the idea of pecuniary reward. The consciousness of having attempted faithfully to discharge my duty, and the approbation of my Country will be a sufficient recompense for my Services. I have the honor etc.⁴⁴

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's favor of the 12th inst. and to thank you most sincerely for the Intelligence you was pleased to communicate.⁴⁸

The Articles of Treaty between America and Great Britain, are as full and satisfactory, as we have reason to expect; but from the connection in which they stand, with a general pacification, they are very inconclusive and contingent: from this circumstance, compared with such other Intelligence

44. The letter was read in Congress on March 22 and referred to Samuel Osgood, Theodorick Bland, Alexander Hamilton, Oliver Wolcott, and Richard Peters. Fried with this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress* is a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the officers, Mar. 15, 1783; an extract from the representation made by the Commander in Chief to the Committee of Congress, Jan. 29, 1778; and an extract from the letter to the President of Congress, Oct. 11, 1780.

On March 18 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam, authorizing a board of officers to settle the relative rank of Capts. Sylvanus Smith, John Burnham, and others, of the Massachusetts line. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

48. Boudinot's letter (March 12) stated that Capt. Joshua Barney, in the packet *Washington*, left L'Orient on January 17, arrived in Philadelphia on the morning of March 12, and brought the preliminary treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States which had been signed by the commissioners at Paris on the 30th of November. Boudinot enumerated the substance of the various articles of the treaty. In a letter to Washington, also dated March 12, Robert R. Livingston forwarded the complete text of Arts. 5 and 6. Sir Guy Carleton forwarded to Washington, for transmission to Congress, a

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copy of the preliminary treaty, in a letter of March 19 Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

as I have been able to collect, I must confess, I have my fears, that we shall be obliged to worry thro' another Campaign, before we arrive at that happy period, which is to crown all our Toils.

Any Intelligence from your Excellency will, at all Times, be very agreeable to me; but should it be in your power to announce a general Peace, you could not make me more happy, than in the communication of such an Event. With the highest Regard etc.⁴⁹

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I have received from Capt Kirkwood, the Arrangement of the Officers of the Delaware Battalion, which has my Approbation. Cpts. Wm McKennan and George Purvis,⁵⁰ will, by their Consent, also continue in Service, to do the Duty of P Master and Adjutant.

Should it be tho't proper to collect that Battalion together, it is more probable that they may be called to join the Main Army, than to be ordered to any other place; they will therefore, remain as they are, for the present.

The proposal mentioned in your Letter of the 8th. for callg on deranged Officers to Attend the Discipline

49. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

50. Both Captain McKennan and Captain Purvis served to the close of the war.

of the Troops in the Main Army, meets my full Approbation, and should it be tho't proper to have it carried into effect, I think it may be attended with very salutary Consequences. It is

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not in my power, from Recollection to name the Officers, who would be most suitable for this purpose. The Baron⁵¹ I expect will soon be on, and should the Measure be adopted by Congress, the Nomination may be seasonably made. I am &c.⁵²

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, March 20, 1783.

Sir: I am at a Loss how to regulate my Conduct in consequence of the Letter you have transmitted to me, addressed to Sir Guy Carleton, relative to the Exchange of Capt Fage, agreed upon by Doctr Franklin.

Several Exchanges made in the same Manner in Europe, by Doctr Franklin and Marquis de la Fayette, have been referred to Congress, for their Confirmation, so long ago as last fall; and I have yet no reply from that Hono Body, to direct me in the Demand I should make of any Officers in Return for those released by us to the Enemy. I am led to conjecture that this Silence of Congress has some particular meaning in it; And as their Resolutions are directly opposed to any partial Exchanges,

51. Baron Von Steuben.

52. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

I have made no Request for any American Officers, in return for British Officers exchanged by those agreements in Europe.

I shall transmit Mr Secty Townshends Letter to Sir Guy Carleton, without naming any Gentlemen on our part; And at the same Time, I shall be exceedgly glad, if you will obtain from Congress, Instructions, how far I may be authorized to make any Demands in Consequence of their Exchanges. I am &c.⁵⁶

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

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Head Quarters, March 21, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to Congress, a Copy of a joint Letter from Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby to me, which accompanied the enclosed Treaty signed at Paris the 30th. of November, which I take the earliest opportunity to forward, agreeable to their Desire. With the highest Esteem etc.⁵⁷

56. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

57. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 21 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment to Carleton and Digby, informing them that he had forwarded a copy of the treaty as desired. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 30, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency will permit me, with the most lively sensations of gratitude and pleasure, to return you my warmest Thanks for the Communication, you have been pleased to make to me and the Army, of the glorious News of a General Peace; an Event, which cannot fail to diffuse a general Joy throughout the United States: but to none of their Citizens a greater Share, than to the Officers and Soldiers, who now compose the Army. It is impossible for me to express the Effusion of Joy, with which I beg your Excellency, to accept a Return of my sincerest Congratulations on this happiest of Events.

The Commutation of the Half Pay, and Measures adopted for the liquidation of their Accounts, will give great satisfaction to the Army; and will prove an additional Tie to strengthen their Confidence in the Justice, and benevolent Intentions of Congress towards them. I have the Honor etc.⁸⁵

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, April 1, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your two favors

85. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 30 Trumbull wrote to Governor Clinton requesting the governor to advise what action should be taken in the case of New York citizens captured under circumstances stated in a letter which Trumbull inclosed, Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The men taken were Benjamin Stevens, Obadiah Valentine, and Solomon Palmer, of Crompond, and Tobias Barr, of New York City.

of the 19th and 26th inst. The favorable disposition of Congress expressed in their late Acts appears to be highly satisfactory to the Army.

My Papers for last year not being with me I cannot recur to the Letters which have passed on the subject I am about to mention; but I recollect it was proposed some time since to alter the military Establishment so far as related to the institution of Lt Colonels Commandant; and that for certain reasons I gave it as my opinion the Alteration had better be postponed until after the Reformation which was to take place on the first of Janry. As the original occasion for that restitution has now ceased to exist, as I conceive no reasonable objection can now be made against placing all our Regts under the Command of Colonels, Lt Colonels and Majors, and as it would be a gratification to a number of very meritorious Officers, I could sincerely wish Congress would take the matter up and decide upon it as early as might conveniently be done.

There is another matter I will take the liberty to suggest to you, and to desire you will give me your opinion without reserve on the expediency of it. viz whether there could not be some general Rule devised (without inconvenience or expence to the Public, or detriment

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to the Service) for giving Brevet Commissions of a superior rank to those they now hold to all such veteran Officers as have served faithfully and bravely in the same grade ever since the first of Janry 1777 ? For example what difficulties would there be in the way of promoting by Brevet all Lts. of that date now actually in service to the rank of Captns; all Captns of the same date to the rank of Majors; All Majors in the same

predicament to be Lt Colonels &c.⁹⁵

Perhaps it will be objected that the number would be too great, perhaps there may be embarrassments or inconveniencies which I have not discovered. Under these considerations I should not urge the prosecution of the Idea; but if those objections or difficulties should not occur, or be found to operate against it; the adoption of the measure would I am persuaded be considered as a just reward to merit, and without encreasing the public expence one farthing, would add greatly to the satisfaction of many very worthy and deserving Characters.

I am informed, by some mistake, the Commissions for the Officers of the York Line (the Certificates for which were collected at VerPlanks point last Fall) have not been forwarded with the others, the Gentlemen concerned will be much obliged to you for them. I am etc.⁹⁶

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed Copies of a Letter and Papers⁹⁸ which came to my Hands last Evening from Sir Guy Carleton: they are of such a Nature, that I have tho't proper they should be communicated

95. Congress passed such a resolution Sept. 30, 1783.

96. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys

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98. The inclosures were copies of Carleton's letter to Washington, March 31, and an extract of a speech delivered at Niagara, Dec. 11, 1782, to Brigadier General Maclean by Tioguanda, a chief of the Six Nations. The original of Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

to Congress. I give them to your Excellency for that purpose.

Altho the Complaints of the Indians may not be perfectly candid; it will rest with Congress to decide how far, in our present Circumstances, Policy and Humanity coincide, to prevent as much as possible, the further prosecution of Hostilities against those people. I have only to observe, that the late Acts of Cruelty complained of in the Speech of the Indians, have not been committed under my Direction, or by any parties of Continental Troops; nor have they been sanctified by any Orders from me. I rather think those Acts of Hostility have been conducted with the approbation at least, if not by the Authority of individual States. How far this practice is consistent with the Rules of propriety, or the principles of policy Congress will be the best Judge; for myself, I confess, my Mind revolts at the Idea of those wanton Barbarities which both sides have in too many Instances, been the unhappy Witnesses to. With the highest Respect etc.⁹⁹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the Copy of a Letter which I received Yesterday from Sir Guy Carleton, by the Hand of Capt. Stapleton,²⁷ Deputy Adjut. General to the British Army.

99. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on April 8 and referred to Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Samuel Osgood.

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27. Capt. John Stapleton, of the Seventeenth Light Dragoons, and Deputy Adjutant General of the British Army in America.

I should have sent it off instantly by Express for the Information of Congress, but being told by Capt. Stapleton, that Dispatches had been sent out by Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby, by way of Elizabeth Town, for Philadelphia, the Morning that he left the City, I concluded that there was not a necessity for so great Expedition. With the highest Esteem etc.²⁸

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, April 16, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 9th instant

28. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

in behalf of a Committee of Congress, requestg my Sentiments upon the military Department of a Peace Establishment.

As this Discussion will involve a variety of Considerations, and those of very great Importance; The Committee will indulge me in a little Time to [collect] and concenter my Ideas on this Subject, and they may depend on my communicating them in the best Manner I am able, and at the earliest period in my power. I am &c.⁵⁵

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 18, 1783.

Sir: I find it a duty incumbent on me to communicate to your Excellency the present disposition and Temper of part of the Army. The accounts of Peace which have been received at different times, have raised an Expectation in the Minds of the Men engaged

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for the War, that a speedy Discharge must be the Consequence. This Idea has been so deeply impressed, that it is become difficult to hold them under that sense of discipline which is necessary to bind together the Subjects of an Army. The slow and dilatory manner in which the Intelligence of peace has arrived to us, has served to heighten this Idea; and has led those Men to some Suspicion, that official dispatches and official

55. The draft is in the writing off Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Declarations have been postponed, through design, that they might be held beyond the Term of their Engagements; under these Impressions, they have in some Instances scarcely been restrained from Acts of Excess. To such a Composition of Men as this Army is formed of, this Idea is perhaps not an unnatural One.

In this situation the proclamation of Congress for a Cessation of Hostilities found us on its Arrival yesterday. This Act being unaccompanied with any Instructions for my Conduct respecting the discharge of this Part of the Army, should it be found necessary, or any Intimation of the Intention of Congress on that Head, has thrown me into a very disagreeable circumstance: knowing the Temper of the *War Men*, to suppress the publication of this proclamation would increase their Suspicion; and knowing the Expectations, to publish it to men who have not learnt to distinguish between a proclamation for a Cessation of Hostilities, and a definite Declaration of Peace, when they have authentic Information that Peace has actually taken place; would serve to encrease their Expectations of immediate Discharge and stamp any Claims to their further services, with an Appearance of Injustice. Under this Dilemma, and being totally ignorant of the designs of the Enemy in New York, who, from all I am able to collect, are making no shew of an early Evacuation of that City, I found it difficult to decide on the Line of my Duty. I therefore called a full consultation of the General Officers of this Army on the Occasion.⁶² It was their unanimous Judgment, that it would be impracticable as well as impolitic to suppress the Proclamation, and that it should be issued in this Days Orders. At the same Time they are strongly impressed

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62. Apr. 17, 1783.

with the Ideas of the little remaing hold which, after this publication, we may expect to have upon the Men engaged *for the War* , the⁶³ necessary there is, that Congress should come to some speedy determination on this interesting point, of what is to be the period of these Mens Service, and that they should give the earliest Communication to me, of their decisions, for my Instruction. Towards effecting this important Object, it has been seriously motioned to me, that I should hint to Congress, the propriety and expediency of their appointing a Committee of their own Body, with plenary powers, who may immediately repair to Camp, and who may decide on the necessary Arrangements for this important period. For my own part, I am fully in sentiment with this opinion; as such a measure would not only tend to⁶⁴ help us over the difficulty of the moment, but would expedite the Execution of many other arrangements, which will be found necessarily preparatory to our disbandg the present Army. It might also serve to facilitate any negotiations which may be found expedient to enter into with Sir Guy Carleton, for his speedy Evacuation of New York, an object which at present, seems at too great a Distance for our circumstances. Many other matters will undoubtedly present themselves, which we cannot foresee, and which will require frequent references to Congress; and as much Time is lost in Communications between the Army and that Sovereign Body, a Committee on the Spot, who might give an immediate decision, would be of great Importance, and perhaps suppress many disagreeable consequences, which might arise merely from Delay. One Circumstance has already occurred, as Congress will perceive by the inclosed petition from the Troops of the New Jersey Line;⁶⁵

63. The draft has "absolute."

64. The draft has "quiet our present uneasiness and."

65. The petition of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the New Jersey line, which is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental*

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Congress, prayed for exemption from taxes and that such exemption be certified to on their discharges.

another I have this Day heard of in the Connecticut Line; extending to a Claim of Half-pay or Commutation for the *Non* -Commissioned Officers of that Line; how far these Ideas, if not suppressed by some lucky Expedient, may proceed, is beyond my power to divine.

Notwithstanding the length of this Letter, I must beg the Liberty to suggest to Congress an Idea which has been hinted to me, and which has affected my Mind very forcibly. That is, that at the Discharge of the Men engaged for the War, Congress should be pleased to suffer those Men, non Commisssd Officers and Soldiers, to take with them as their own property, and as a Gratuity, the Arms and Accoutrements they now hold. This Act would raise pleasing Sensations in the Minds of those worthy and faithfull Men, who, from their early engaging in the War, at moderate Bounties, and from their patient continuing, under innumerable distresses, have not only deserved nobly from their Country, but have obtained an honorable Distinction over those, who, with shorter Terms, have gained large pecuniary Rewards. This Act, at a comparative small Expence, would be deemed an honorable Testimonial from Congress of the Regard they bear to those distinguished Worthies, and the Sense they have of their suffering Virtues and Services, which have been so happily instrumental towards the security and Establishment of the Rights Liberties and Independence of this rising Empire. These constant companions of their Toils and Dangers, preserved with sacred Care, would be handed down from the present possessors, to their Children, as honorable Badges of Bravery and military Merit; and would probably be bro't forth, on some future Occasion, with Pride and Exultation, to be improved, with the same military Ardor and Emulation, in the

Hands of posterity, as they have been used by their forefathers in the present Establishment and foundation of our National Independence and Glory.

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Congress will suffer me to repeat my most earnest Wish, that they will be pleased, either by themselves at large, or by their Committee, to pay their earliest Attention to the matters now referred for their Consideration. for I must add, that unless the most speedy Arrangements for the War men are adopted, I contemplate with Anxiety, the disagreeable Consequences which, I fear will be the Result of much longer Delay. With the highest Respect etc.⁶⁶

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, April 22, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your two favors, dated the 12th. and 15th. instant.

In Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of the 15th. and the express declarations of the Secretary at War, respecting the Sense and Expectations of Congress.

Arrangements have been agreed upon between him and me, for an immediate Liberation of all land prisoners; and I have Yesterday given this Information to Sir Guy Carleton. The particulars of the

66. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on April 21 and referred to Samuel Osgood, Theodorick Bland, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Richard Peters, on whose report it was resolved, on April 23 that, in the opinion of Congress, the time of service of the men engaged for the war did not expire until the ratification of the definitive articles of peace; that those continuing in the service until that time should be allowed their arms and accoutrements; but that, nevertheless, discretion should be left with the Commander in Chief to grant furloughs, or discharges, to those: men, as he should judge most expedient.

Arrangement, with the Option given the British Commander in Chief, you will obtain thro' the Minister at War.

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In order to obtain the Sense of Sir Guy upon the other matters contained in the Resolution of the 15th., I have proposed a personal Interview with him at an early Day. The result of this Meeting, if acceded to, will probably lead us to a decision upon some Questions which are now doubtfull; and that with greater precision,⁸³ than could otherwise be procured. With great Regard etc.⁸⁴

83. The draft has "and Dispach."

84. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose to you, a Letter and Memorial I have just received from Baron De L'Estrade, an Old Veteran who served with us at the Siege of York; from my acquaintance with this Officer, joined to the general good Character he had, I feel strongly inclined to serve him; but there may be many reasons to render such an interference as he requests improper; all I can do therefore is to submit the matter to you, with a wish that so far as Circumstances and the rules of propriety will admit, you may interest yourself in his favor.⁹⁴

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburg, April 30, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency for the observation of Congress a Copy of a Letter which I have written to Sir Guy Carleton in consequence of their resolutions of the 15th. instant. Also a Copy of Sir Guy's reply, agreeable to which I expect to meet him at Tappan, on the 5th of May.²²

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The Proceedings and result of this Interview, so far as shall be necessary I shall have the honor to transmit to Congress on my return. I have the honor etc.²³

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, April 30, 1783.

Sir: I inclose to you the Reports, which I have received from the several Lines and Corps of the Army under my

94. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

22. The inclosures were copiss of Washington's letter to Sir Guy Carleton, Apr. 21, 1783, and Carleton's reply, April 24.

23. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Command, accepting the Commutation proposed by the Resolution of Congress of the 22d of March. Colo Olney's Regiment being at Saratoga, I have not yet been made acquainted with their Election, but will forward it as soon as received.

You will also find enclosed a Copy of a Letter from Brigr Genl Irvine,²⁰ which I send to you to be communicated to Congress, that they may be acquainted with the Disposition of the Indians, and decide on some measures for the Security of the back Inhabitants, against the Designs of the Savages. I would only suggest whether a movement of some part, or all the Pennsylvania Troops with those of Virginia at Winchester at the moment, towards the back Settlements, might not have a happy Influence towards checking these Mischiefs and stoppg the progress of the Indians. At the same Time, those Troops, at least such of them whose Times of Service do not expire with the War, may be advancing towards the Western posts, which Congress may think proper to establish, [rendezvousing first at Pittsburg].

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I have received your two favors of the 22d and 24th. instant, with their several Enclosures. I have the honor, etc.²¹

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, May 2, 1783.

Sir: A necessary absence from Camp and

20. Irvine's letter of April 16, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

21. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

several unavoidable interruptions have been the occasion of, and must be my apology for with holding the inclosed thoughts on a peace establishment so long.

If they will afford any assistance, or contain any thing satisfactory, I shall think my time and labour well spent. I have the honour.²⁸

SENTIMENTS ON A PEACE ESTABLISHMENT²⁹

A Peace Establishment for the United States of America may in my opinion be classed under four different heads Vizt:

First. A regular and standing force, for Garrisoning West Point and such other Posts upon our Northern, Western, and Southern Frontiers, as shall be deemed necessary to awe the Indians, protect our Trade, prevent the encroachment of our Neighbours of Canada and the Florida's, and guard us at least from surprizes; Also for security of our Magazines.

Secondly. A well organized Militia; upon a Plan that will pervade all the States, and introduce similarity in their Establishment Manœuvres, Exercise and Arms.

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Thirdly. Establishing Arsenals of all kinds of Military Stores.

Fourthly. Accademies, one or more for the Instruction of the Art

28. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

29. Inclosed in the preceding letter to Hamilton, as chairman of the Committee of Congress on the Peace Establishment.

Military; particularly those Branches of it which respect Engineering and Artillery, which are highly essential, and the knowledge of which, is most difficult to obtain. Also Manufactories of some kinds of Military Stores.

Upon each of these, and in the order in which they stand, I shall give my sentiments as concisely as I can, and with that freedom which the Committee have authorized.

Altho' a *large* standing Army in time of Peace hath ever been considered dangerous to the liberties of a Country, yet a few Troops, under certain circumstances, are not only safe, but indispensably necessary. Fortunately for us our relative situation requires but few. The same circumstances which so effectually retarded, and in the end conspired to defeat the attempts of Britain to subdue us, will now powerfully tend to render us secure. Our *distance* from the European States in a great degree frees us of apprehension, from their numerous regular forces and the Insults and dangers which are to be dreaded from their Ambition.

But, if our danger from those powers was more imminent, yet we are too poor to maintain a standing Army adequate to our defence, and was our Country more populous and rich, still it could not be done without great oppression of the people. Besides, as soon as we are able to raise funds more than adequate to the discharge of the Debts incurred by the Revolution, it may become a Question worthy of consideration, whether the surplus should not be applied in preparations for building and equipping a Navy, without which, in ease

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of War we could neither protect our Commerce, nor yield that Assistance to each other, which, on such an extent of Sea-Coast, our mutual Safety

would require.

Fortifications on the Sea Board may be considered in two points of view, first as part of the general defence, and next, as securities to Dock Yards, and Arsenals for Ship Building, neither of which shall I take into this plan ; because the first would be difficult, if not, under our circumstances, impracticable; at any rate amazingly expensive. The other, because it is a matter out of my line, and to which I am by no means competent, as it requires a consideration of many circumstances, to which I have never paid attention.

The Troops requisite for the Post of West Point, for the Magazines, and for our Northern, Western and Southern Frontiers, ought, in my opinion, to amount to 2631 Officers of all denominations included; besides the Corps of Invalids. If this number should be thought large, I would only observe; that the British Force in Canada is now powerful, and, by report, will be increased; that the frontier is very extensive; that the Tribes of Indians within our Territory are numerous, soured and jealous; that Communications must be established with the exterior Posts; And, that it may be policy and œconomy, to appear respectable in the Eyes of the Indians, at the Commencement of our National Intercourse and Traffic with them. In a word, that it is better to reduce our force hereafter, by degrees, than to have it to increase after some unfortunate disasters may have happened to the Garrisons; discouraging to us, and an inducement to the Enemy to attempt a repetition of them.

Besides these Considerations, we are not to forget, that altho' by the Treaty, half the Waters, and the free Navigation

of the Lakes appertain to us, yet, in Case of a rupture with Great Britain we should in all probability, find little benefits from the Communications with our upper Posts, by the Lakes Erie and Ontario; as it is to be presumed, that the Naval superiority which they now have on those Waters, will be maintained. It follows as a Consequence then, that we should

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open new or improve the present half explored Communications with Detroit and other Posts on the Lakes, by the Waters of the Susquehannah Potowmack or James River, to the Ohio, from whence, with short Portages several Communications by Water may be opened with Lake Erie. To do which, posts should be established at the most convenient places on the Ohio. This would open several doors for the supply of the Garrisons on the Lakes; and is absolutely necessary for such others as may be tho't advisable to establish upon the Mississippi. The Ohio affording the easiest, as well as the safest Route to the Illinois settlements, and the whole Country below on the Mississippi, quite to our Southern boundary.

To protect the Peltry and Fur Trade, to keep a watch upon our Neighbours, and to prevent their encroaching upon our Territory undiscovered, are all the purposes that can be answered by an extension of our Posts, at this time, beyond Detroit, to the Northward or Westward: but, a strong Post on the Scioto, at the carrying place between it and the River Sandusky, which empties into Lake Erie, mentioned in Hutchins's Description of that Country Page 24, and more plainly pointed out by Evans's Map, is indispensably necessary for the security of the present Settlers, and such as probably, will *immediately* settle within those Limits. And by giving security to the Country and covering its Inhabitants, will

enable them to furnish supplies to the Garrisons Westward and Northward of these settlements, upon moderate and easy Terms.

The 2,631 Men beforementioned, I would have considered to all Intents and purposes as Continental Troops; looking up to Congress for their Orders, their pay, and supplies of every kind. The Infantry of which, being 1908 and, composing four Regiments may be thrown into the following disposition.

Establishment and Disposition of four Regts. of Infantry 1908 Men including Officers

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Officers Non Comd. Officers Disposition Commissioned Staff Colonel Lt. Colonel Major
Captains Lieuts. Ensigns Chaplain Adjutant P Master Qr. Master Surgeon Mate Sergt.
Major Qr. Mr. Sergt. Drum Major Fife Major Sergeants Drum & fifes Rank & File Total
Penobscot or St Croix or both 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 9 6 150 North End of Lake Champlain 1 1 4 4 4
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 12 18 8 200 Connecticut River near the 45th degree 1 1 2 1 30 Ticonderoga
1 1 1 20 Establishment & Strength 1 1 1 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 24 16 400 477 Niagara
1 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 9 6 150 Oswego 1 1 2 1 30 Fort Erie No. end of Lake Erie 1 1 1
20 Detroit 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 9 6 150 Streights between Lakes Huron & Superior 1 1 1 3 2 50
Establishment & Strength 1 1 1 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 24 16 400 477 Fort Pitt 1 1 2 1
30 Mouth of the Scioto 1 1 1 20 Portage between Scioto & Sandusky 1 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 9 6 150 Mouth of Kentucky or the Rapids 1 1 2 1 30 Mouth of the Ohio or near it
1 1 1 20 Height at the mouth of the River Illinois 1 3 3 3 1 1 1 9 6 150 Establishment &
Strength 1 1 1 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 24 16 400 477 To be disposed, as those who are
bear acquainted with the Frontiers of the Carolina & Georgia may direct. 1 1 1 8 8 8 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 24 16 400 477 Establishment & Strength of 4 Regts 4 4 4 32 32 32 4 4 4 4 4
4 4 4 4 4 96 64 1600 1908

Not having that *particular* knowledge of the situation of the Southern and Western
Boundaries of the Carolinas and Georgia, which is necessary to decide on the Posts to
be established in that District, the allotment of only one Regiment thereto, may be judged
inadequate; should that be the case, a greater force may be established and a sufficient
allowance made them.

The above establishment differs from our present one, in the following instances Vizt: The
exclusion of the light Company and reducing a sergeant and 18 Privates from each of the
Battalion Companies, and giving a Chaplain to each Regiment instead of a Brigade. If it
should be asked why the Reduction of Non Commisd. Officers and Privates is made, while
the Commissioned Officers remain the same? It may be answered, that the number of
Men which compose the Infantry, will be sufficient for my Calculation, and that the situation
of our Frontiers renders it convenient to divide them into so many Corps as have been
mentioned, for the ease and propriety of Command. I may also say, that in my Opinion,
the number of our Commissioned Officers, has always been disproportionate to the Men.

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And that in the detached State in which these Regiments must be employed, they cannot consistently with the good of Service be reduced.

It may also be observed, that in case of War and a necessity of assembling their Regiments in the Field, nothing more will be necessary, than to recruit 18 Men to each Compy. and give the Regiment its flank Company. Or if we should have occasion to add strength to the Garrisons, or increase the number of our Posts, we may augment 900 Men including Serjeants, without

requiring more than the Officers of 4 Companies, or exceeding our present Establishment. In short, it will give us a Number of Officers well skilled in the Theory and Art of War, who will be ready on any occasion, to mix and diffuse their knowledge of Discipline to other Corps, without that lapse of Time, which, without such Provision, would be necessary to bring intire new Corps acquainted with the principles of it.

Besides the 4 Regiments of Infantry, one of Artillery will be indispensably necessary. The Invalid Corps should also be retained. Motives of humanity, Policy and justice will all combine to prevent their being disbanded. The numbers of the last will, from the nature of their composition, be fluctuating and uncertain. The establishment of the former will be as follows, Vizt:

Establishment for one Regiment of Artillery.

Officers. Commissioned Staff Non Commissioned Colonel Lieut. Colonel Major Captains
Captn. Lieuts. 1st Lieutenants 2nd Lieutenants Chaplain Adjutant Pay Mr. Qur. Master
Surgeon Mate Serjt. Major Qur. M. Serjeant Drum Major Fife Major Serjeants Corporals
Bombadiers Gunners Drums & fifes Matrosses Total 1 1 1 10 10 10 30 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
60 60 60 60 20 390 723

To this Regiment of Artillery should be annexed 50 or 60 Artificers, of the various kinds which will be necessary, who may be distributed in equal numbers into the different

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Companies and being part of the Regiment, will be under the direction and Command of the Commanding Officer, to be disposed into different services

as Circumstances shall require. By thus blending Artificers with Artillery, the expence of Additional Officers will be saved; and they will Answer all the purposes which are to be expected from them, as well as if formed into a distinct Corps.

The Regiment of Artillery, with the Artificers, will furnish all the Posts in which Artillery is placed, in proportionate numbers to the Strength and importance of them. The residue, with the Corps of Invalids, will furnish Guards for the Magazines, and Garrison West Point. The importance of this last mentioned Post, is so great, as justly to have been considered, the key of America; It has been so preeminently advantageous to the defence of the United States, and is still so necessary in that view, as well as for the preservation of the Union, that the loss of it might be productive of the most ruinous Consequences. A Naval superiority at Sea and on Lake Champlain, connected by a Chain of Posts on the Hudson River, would effect an entire separation of the States on each side, and render it difficult, if not impracticable for them to co-operate.

Altho' the total of the Troops herein enumerated does not amount to a large number, yet when we consider their detached situation, and the extent of Country they are spread over: the variety of objects that are to be attended to, and the close inspection that will be necessary to prevent abuses or to correct them before they become habitual; not less than two General Officers in my opinion will be competent to the Duties to be required of them. They will take their Instructions from the Secretary at War, or Person acting at the Head of the Military Department, who will also assign them their respective

and distinct Districts. Each should twice a Year visit the Posts of his particular District, and notice the Condition they are in, Inspect the Troops, their discipline and Police, Examine into their Wants, and see that strict justice is rendered them and to the Public, they should also direct the Colonels, at what intermediate Times they shall perform the like duties

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at the Posts occupied by the Detachments of their respective Regiments. The visiting General ought frequently, if not always, to be accompanied by a Skillful Engineer, who should point out such alterations and improvements as he may think necessary from time to time, for the defence of any of the Posts; which, if approved by the General, should be ordered to be carried into execution.

Each Colonel should be responsible for the Administration of his Regiment; and when present, being Commanding Officer of any Post, which is occupied by a Detachment from his Regt., he may give such directions as he may think proper, not inconsistent with the Orders of his Superior Officer, under whose general superintendence the Troops are. He will carefully exact Monthly Returns from all detachments of his Regiment; and be prepared to make a faithful report of all occurrences, when called upon by the General Officer in whose Department he may be placed and whose instructions he is at all times to receive and obey. These Returns and Reports, drawn into a General one, are to be transmitted to the Secretary at War, by the visiting General, with the detail of his own proceedings, remarks and Orders.

The three Years Men now in service will furnish the proposed Establishment, and from these, it is presumed, the Corps must

in the first Instance be composed. But as the pay of an American Soldier is much greater than any other we are acquainted with; and as there can be little doubt of our being able to obtain them in time of Peace, upon as good Terms as other Nations, I would suggest the propriety of inlisting those who may come after the present three years Men, upon Terms of similarity with those of the British, or any other the most liberal Nations.

When the Soldiers for the War have frolicked a while among their friends, and find they must have recourse to hard labour for a livelihood, I am persuaded numbers of them will reinlist upon almost any Terms. Whatever may be adopted with respect to Pay, Clothing and Emoluments, they should be clearly and unequivocally expressed and promulgated,

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that there may be no deception or mistake. Discontent, Desertion and frequently Mutiny, are the natural consequences of these; and it is not more difficult to know how to punish, than to prevent these inconveniencies, when it is known, that there has been delusion on the part of the Recruiting Officer, or a breach of Compact on the part of the public. The pay of the Battalion Officer's is full low, but those of the Chaplain, Surgeon and Mate are too high; and a proper difference should be made between the Non-Commissioned Officers (serjeants particularly) and Privates, to give them that pride and consequence which is necessary to Command.

At, or before the Time of discharging the Soldiers for the War, the Officers of the Army may signify their wishes either to retire, upon the Half pay, or to continue in the service; from among those who make the latter choice, the number wanted for

a Peace Establishment may be selected; and it were to be wished, that they might be so blended together from the Several Lines, as to remove, as much as possible, all Ideas of State distinctions.

No Forage should be allowed in time of Peace to Troops in Garrison, nor in any circumstances, but when actually on a March.

Soldiers should not be inlisted for *less* than three Years, to commence from the date of their attestations; and the more difference there is in the commencement of their terms of Service, the better; this Circumstance will be the means of avoiding the danger and inconvenience of entrusting any important Posts to raw Recruits unacquainted with service.

Rum should compose no part of a Soldier's Ration; but Vinegar in large quantities should be issued. Flour or Bread, and a stipulated quantity of the different kinds of fresh or Salted Meat, with Salt, when the former is Issued, is all that should be contracted for.

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Vegetables they can, and ought to be compelled to raise. If spruce, or any other kind of small Beer, could be provided, it ought to be given gratis, but not made part of the Compact with them. It might be provided also, that they should receive one or two days fish in a Week, when to be had; this would be a saving to the public, (the Lakes and most of the Waters of the Ohio and Mississippi abounding with Fish) and would be no disservice to the Soldier.

A proper recruiting fund should be established; from which the Regiment may always be kept complete.

The Garrisons should be changed as often

as it can be done with convenience; long continuance in the same place is injurious. Acquaintances are made, Connections formed, and habits acquired, which often prove very detrimental to the service. By this means, public duty is made to yield to interested pursuits, and real abuses are the Result. To avoid these Evils, I would propose, that there should be a change made in every Regiment once a Year, and one Regiment with another every two Years.

An Ordinance for the service of Troops in Garrison, should be annexed to our present Regulations for the order and discipline of the Army. The latter should be revised, corrected and enlarged so as to form a Basis of Discipline under all circumstances for Continental Troops, and, as far as they will apply, to the Militia also: that one uniform system may pervade all the States.

As a peace establishment may be considered as a change in, if not the Commencement of our Military system, it will be the proper time, to introduce new and beneficial regulations, and to expunge all customs, which from experience have been found unproductive of general good. Among the latter I would ask, if promotion by Seniority is not one? That it is a good general rule admits of no doubt, but that it should be an invariable one, is

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in my opinion wrong. It cools, if it does not destroy, the incentives to Military Pride and Heroic Actions. On the one hand, the sluggard, who keeps within the verge of his duty, has nothing to fear. On the other hand, the enterprising Spirit has nothing to expect. Whereas, if promotion was the *sure* reward of Merit, *all* would contend for Rank and the service would be benefited by their Struggles for Promotion.

In establishing a mode by which this is to be done, and from which nothing is to be expected, or apprehended, either from favour or prejudice, lies the difficulty. Perhaps, reserving to Congress the right inherent in Sovereignities, of making all Promotions. A Board of superior Officers, appointed to receive and examine the claims to promotions out of common course, of any Officer, whether founded on particular merit, or extra service, and to report their opinion thereon to Congress; might prove a likely means of doing justice. It would certainly give a Spur to Emulation, without endangering the rights, or just pretensions of the Officers.

Before I close my observations under this head, of a regular force, and the Establishment of Posts, it is necessary for me to observe, that, in fixing a Post at the North End of Lake Champlain I had three things in view. The Absolute Command of the entrance into the Lake from Canada. A cover to the Settlements on the New Hampshire Grants and the prevention of any illicit intercourse thro' that Channel. But, if it is known, or should be found, that the 45th Degree crosses the Lake South of any spot which will command the entrance into it, the primary object fails; And it then becomes a question whether any place beyond Ticonderoga or Crown Point is eligible.

Altho' it may be somewhat foreign to, and yet not altogether unconnected with the present subject, I must beg leave, from the importance of the object, as it appears to my mind, and for the advantages which I think would result from it to the United States, to hint, the propriety of Congress taking some early steps, by a liberal treatment, to gain the affections of the French settlements of Detroit, those of the Illinois and other back Countries. Such a measure would not only

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hold out great encouragement to the Inhabitants already on those lands, who will doubtless make very useful and valuable subjects of the United States; but would probably make deep and conciliatory impressions on their friends in the British settlements, and prove a means of drawing thither great numbers of Canadian Emigrants, who, under proper Regulations and establishments of Civil Government, would make a hardy and industrious race of Settlers on that Frontier; and who, by forming a barrier against the Indians, would give great security to the Infant settlement, which, soon after the close of the War, will probably be forming in the back Country.

I come next in the order I have prescribed myself, to treat of the Arrangements necessary for placing the Militia of the Continent on a respectable footing for the defence of the Empire and in speaking of this great Bulwark of our Liberties and independence, I shall claim the indulgence of suggesting whatever general observations may occur from experience and reflection with the greater freedom, from a conviction of the importance of the subject; being persuaded, that the immediate safety and future tranquility of this extensive Continent depend in a great measure upon the peace Establishment now in contemplation; and being convinced at the same time, that the only probable means of preventing insult or hostility for any length of time and from being exempted from the consequent calamities of War, is to put the National Militia in such a condition as that they may appear truly respectable in the Eyes of our Friends and formidable to those who would otherwise become our enemies.

Were it not totally unnecessary and

superfluous to adduce arguments to prove what is conceded on all hands the Policy and expediency of resting the protection of the Country on a respectable and well established Militia, we might not only shew the propriety of the measure from our peculiar local situation, but we might have recourse to the Histories of Greece and Rome in their most virtuous and Patriotic ages to demonstrate the Utility of such Establishments. Then passing by the Mercenary Armies, which have at one time or another subverted the

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liberties of all most all the Countries they have been raised to defend, we might see, with admiration, the Freedom and Independence of Switzerland supported for Centuries, in the midst of powerful and jealous neighbours, by means of a hardy and well organized Militia. We might also derive useful lessons of a similar kind from other Nations of Europe, but I believe it will be found, the *People of this Continent* are too well acquainted with the Merits of the subject to require information or example. I shall therefore proceed to point out some general outlines of their duty, and conclude this head with a few particular observations on the regulations which I conceive ought to be immediately adopted by the States at the instance and recommendation of Congress.

It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defence of it, and consequently that the Citizens of America (with a few legal and official exceptions) from 18 to 50 Years of Age should be borne on the Militia Rolls, provided with uniform Arms, and so far accustomed to the use of them, that the Total

strength of the Country might be called forth at a Short Notice on any very interesting Emergency, for these purposes they ought to be duly organized into Commands of the same formation; (it is not of very great importance, whether the Regiments are Large or small, provided a sameness prevails in the strength and composition of them and I do not know that a better establishment, than that under which the Continental Troops now are, can be adopted. They ought to be regularly Mustered and trained, and to have their Arms and Accoutrements inspected at certain appointed times, not less than once or twice in the course of every [year] but as it is obvious, amongst such a Multitude of People (who may indeed be useful for temporary service) there must be a great number, who from domestic Circumstances, bodily defects, natural awkwardness or disinclination, can never acquire the habits of Soldiers; but on the contrary will injure the appearance of any body of Troops to which they are attached, and as there are a sufficient proportion of able bodied young Men, between the Age of 18 and 25, who, from a natural fondness for Military parade

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(which passion is almost ever prevalent at that period of life) might easily be enlisted or drafted to form a Corps in every State, capable of resisting any sudden impression which might be attempted by a foreign Enemy, while the remainder of the National forces would have time to Assemble and make preparations for the Field. I would wish therefore, that the former, being considered as a *denier resort*, reserved for some great occasion, a judicious system might be adopted for forming and placing the latter on the best possible Establishment. And that while the Men of this description shall be viewed as the Van and flower of the American Forces, ever ready for Action

and zealous to be employed whenever it may become necessary in the service of their Country; they should meet with such exemptions, privileges or distinctions, as might tend to keep alive a true Military pride, a nice sense of honour, and a patriotic regard for the public. Such sentiments, indeed, ought to be instilled into our Youth, with their earliest years, to be cherished and inculcated as frequently and forcibly as possible.

It is not for me to decide positively, whether it will be ultimately most interesting to the happiness and safety of the United States, to form this Class of Soldiers into a kind of Continental Militia, selecting every 10th 15th or 20th. Man from the Rolls of each State for the purpose; Organizing, Officering and Commissioning those Corps upon the same principle as is now practiced in the Continental Army. Whether it will be best to comprehend in this body, all the Men fit for service between some given Age and no others, for example between 18 and 25 or some similar description, or whether it will be preferable in every Regiment of the proposed Establishment to have one additional Company inlisted or drafted from the best Men for 3, 5, or 7 years and distinguished by the name of the additional or light Infantry Company, always to be kept complete. These Companies might then be drawn together occasionally and formed into particular Battalions or Regiments under Field Officers appointed for that Service. One or other of these plans I think will be found indispensably necessary, if we are in earnest to have an

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efficient force ready for Action at a moments Warning. And I cannot conceal my private sentiment, that the formation of additional, or light

Companies will be most consistent with the genius of our Countrymen and perhaps in their opinion most consonant to the spirit of our Constitution.

I shall not contend for names or forms, it will be altogether essential, and it will be sufficient that perfect Uniformity should be established throughout the Continent, and pervade, as far as possible, every Corps, whether of standing Troops or Militia, and of whatever denomination they may be. To avoid the confusion of a contrary practice, and to produce the happy consequences which will attend a uniform system of Service, in case Troops from the different parts of the Continent shall ever be brought to Act together again, I would beg leave to propose, that Congress should employ some able hand, to digest a Code of Military Rules and regulations, calculated immediately for the Militia and other Troops of the United States; And as it should seem the present system, by being a little simplified, altered, and improved, might be very well adopted to the purpose; I would take the liberty of recommending, that measures should be immediately taken for the accomplishment of this interesting business, and that an Inspector General should be appointed to superintend the execution of the proposed regulations in the several States.

Congress having fixed upon a proper plan to be established, having caused the Regulations to be compiled, having approved, Printed and distributed them to every General Field Officer, Captain and Adjutant of Militia, will doubtless have taken care, that whenever the system shall be adopted by the States the encouragement on the one hand, and the fines and penalties

on the other will occasion an universal and punctual compliance there with.

Before I close my remarks on the establishment of our National Militia, which is to be the future guardian of those rights and that Independence, which have been maintain'd so gloriously, by the fortitude and perseverance of our Countrymen, I shall descend a little

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more minutely to the interior arrangements, and sum up what I have to say on this head with the following Positions.

1st. That it appears to me extremely necessary there should be an Adjutant General appointed in each State, with such Assistants as may be necessary for communicating the Orders of the Commander in Chief of the State, making the details, collecting the Returns and performing every other duty incident to that Office. A duplicate of the Annual Returns should always be lodged in the War Office by the 25th of Decr. in every year, for the information of Congress; with any other reports that may be judged expedient. The Adjutant Generals and Assistants to be considered as the deputies of the Inspector General, and to assist him in carrying the system of Discipline into effect.

2d. That every Militia Officer should make himself acquainted with the plan of Discipline, within a limited time, or forfeit his Commission, for it is in vain to expect the improvement of the Men, while the Officers remain ignorant, which many of them will do, unless Government will make and enforce such a Regulation.

3dly. That the formation of the Troops ought to be perfectly simple and entirely uniform, for example each Regiment should be composed of two Battalions, each Battalion to consist of

4 Companies and each Company as at present of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 5 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Music, 65 Privates.

Two Battalions should form a Regiment four Regts a Brigade and two Brigades a Division. This might be the general formation; but as I before observed, I conceive it will be eligible to select from the district forming a Regiment, the flower of the young Men to compose an additional or light Company to every Regiment, for the purposes before specified, which undoubtedly ought to be the case unless something like a Continental Militia shall be instituted. To each Division two Troops of Cavalry and two Companies of Artillery

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might also be annexed, but no Independent or Volunteer Companies foreign to the Establishment should be tolerated.

4thly. It is also indispensable that such a proportion of the Militia (under whatever discription they are comprehended) as are always to be held in readiness for service, nearly in the same manner the Minute Men formerly were, should be excercised at least from 12 to 25 days in a year, part of the time in Company, part in Battalion and part in Brigade, in the latter case, by forming a Camp, their Discipline would be greatly promoted, and their Ideas raised, as near as possible, to real service; Twenty five days might be divided thus, ten days for training in squads, half Companies and Companies, ten in Battalion and five in Brigade.

5thly. While in the Field or on actual duty, there should not only be a Compensation for the time thus spent, but a full allowance of Provisions Straw, Camp Equipage &c; it is also of so great consequence that there should be, a perfect similarity in the Arms and Accoutrements, that they ought to be furnished, in the first instance by the public, if they cannot be obtained in any other way, some kind of Regimentals or Uniform Clothing (however cheap or course they may be) are also highly requisite and should be provided for such occasions. Nor is it unimportant that every Article should be stamped with the appearance of regularity; and especially that all the Articles of public property should be numbered, marked or branded with the name of the Regiment or Corps that they may be properly accounted for.

6thly. In addition to the Continental Arsenals, which will be treated of under the next head. Every State ought to Establish Magazines of its own, containing Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunitions, all kinds of Camp Equipage and Warlike Stores, and from which the Militia or any part of them should be supplied whenever they are call'd into the Field.

7thly. It is likewise much to be wished, that it might be made agreeable to Officers who have served in the Army, to accept Commands in the Militia; that they might be

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appointed to them so far as can be done without creating uneasiness and jealousy, and that the principle Characters in the Community would give a countenance to Military improvements, by being present at public reviews and Exhibitions, and by bringing into estimation amongst their fellow Citizens, those who appear fond of cultivating Military knowledge

and who excel in the Exercise of Arms. By giving such a tone to our Establishment; by making it universally reputable to bear Arms and disgraceful to decline having a share in the performance of Military duties; in fine, by keeping up in Peace “a well regulated, and disciplined Militia,” we shall take the fairest and best method to preserve, for a long time to come, the happiness, dignity and Independence of our Country.

With regard to the third Head in Contemplation, to wit. the “Establishment of Arsenals of all kinds of Military Stores.” I will only observe, that having some time since seen a plan of the Secretary of War, which went fully into the discussion of this branch of Arrangement, and appeared (as well as I can, at this time recollect) to be in general perfectly well founded, little more need be said on the subject, especially as I have been given to understand the plan has been lately considerably improved and laid before Congress for their approbation; and indeed there is only one or two points in which I could wish to suggest any Alteration.

According to my recollection, five grand Magazines are proposed by the Secretary at War, one of which to be fixed at West Point. Now, as West Point is considered not only by our selves, but by all who have the least knowledge of the Country, as a post of the greatest importance, as it may in time of Peace, from its situation on the Water be somewhat obnoxious to surprise or *Coup de Main* and as it would doubtless be a first object with any Nation which might commence a War against the United States, to seize that Post and occupy or destroy the Stores, it appears to me, that we ought particularly to guard against such an event, so far as may be

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practicable, and to remove some part of the Allurements to enterprise, by establishing the grand Arsenals in the Interior part of the Country, leaving only to West Point an adequate supply for its defence in almost any extremity.³⁰

I take the liberty also to submit to the consideration of the Committee, whether, instead of five great Arsenals, it would not be less expensive and equally convenient and advantageous to fix three general Deposits, one for the Southern, one for the Middle and one for the Eastern States, including New York, in each of which there might be deposited, Arms, Ammunition, Field Artillery, and Camp Equipage for thirty thousand Men, Also one hundred heavy Cannon and Mortars, and all the Apparatus of a Seige, with a sufficiency of Ammunition.

Under the fourth General Division of the subject, it was proposed to consider the Establishment of Military Academies and Manufacturies, as the means of preserving that knowledge and being possessed of those Warlike Stores, which are essential to the support of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States. But as the Baron Steuben has thrown together his Ideas very largely on these Articles, which he had communicated to me previous to their being sent to the secretary at War, and which being now lodged at the War Office, I imagine have also been submitted to the inspection of the Committee, I shall therefore have the less occasion for entering into the detail, and may, without impropriety, be the more concise in my own observations.

That an Institution calculated to keep

30. West Point had been designated as the main depository of all the military stores of the Army after the signing of the preliminary treaty of peace.

alive and diffuse the knowledge of the Military Art would be highly expedient, and that some kinds of Military Manufactories and Elaboratoties ties may and ought to be established, will not admit a doubt; but how far we are able at this time to go into great and

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expensive pensive Arrangements and whether the greater part of the Military Apparatus and Stores which will be wanted can be imported or Manufactured, in the cheapest and best manner: I leave those to whom the observations are to be submitted, to determine, as being more competent, to the decision than I can pretend to be. I must however mention some things, which I think cannot be dispensed with under the present or any other circumstances; Until a more perfect system of Education can be adopted, I would propose that Provision should be made at some Post or Posts where the principle Engineers and Artillerists shall be stationed, for instructing a certain number of young Gentlemen in the Theory of the Art of War, particularly in all those branches of service which belong to the Artillery and Engineering Departments. Which, from the affinity they bear to each other, and the advantages which I think would result from the measure, I would have blended together; And as this species of knowledge will render them much more accomplished and capable of performing the duties of Officers, even in the Infantry or any other Corps whatsoever, I conceive that appointments to vacancies in the Established Regiments, ought to be made from the candidates who shall have completed their course of Military Studies and Exercises. As it does in an essential manner qualify them for the duties of Garrisons, which will be the principal, if not only service in which our Troops can be employed in time of Peace

and besides the Regiments of Infantry by this means will become in time a nursery from whence a number of Officers for Artillery and Engineering may be drawn on any great or sudden occasion.

Of so great importance is it to preserve the knowledge which has been acquired thro' the various Stages of a long and arduous service, that I cannot conclude without repeating the necessity of the proposed Institution, unless we intend to let the Science become extinct, and to depend entirely upon the Foreigners for their friendly aid, if ever we should again be involved in Hostility. For it must be understood, that a Corps of able Engineers and expert

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Artillerists cannot be raised in a day, nor made such by any exertions, in the same time, which it would take to form an excellent body of Infantry from a well regulated Militia.

And as to Manufactories and Elaboratories it is my opinion that if we should not be able to go largely into the business at present, we should nevertheless have a reference to such establishments hereafter, and in the means time that we ought to have such works carried on, wherever our principal Arsenals may be fixed, as will not only be sufficient to repair and keep in good order the Arms, Artillery, Stores &c of the Post, but shall also extend to Founderies and some other essential matters.

Thus have I given my sentiments without reserve on the four different heads into which the subject seemed naturally to divide itself, as amply as my numerous avocations and various duties would permit. Happy shall I be, if any thing I have suggested may be found of use in forming an Establishment

which will maintain the lasting Peace, Happiness and Independence of the United States.³¹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 3, 1783.

Sir: I take the Liberty to mention to your Excellency, that, in attending to the Resolution of Congress of the 15th. of April,³² respecting the posts in the United States occupied by the British Troops, I find it necessary to apply for some more particular Explanation of the Intentions of Congress than is there expressed.

Taking it for granted that the Northern and Western Posts are included within the Ideas of Congress, as well as N York, Arrangements for receiving possession of those posts, are to be made with General Haldimand, who commands in the District of Canada. As the Communication with him is distant and will take much Time, previous to commencing my

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Correspondence, it will be requisite that I should be as fully instructed, as circumstances will admit, of the Intentions of Congress respecting those frontier Posts, particularly what footing they are to be placed upon, and what Number of Men will be sent to maintain them, upon the Peace Establishment. Congress will also be impressed with the necessity of adopting the earliest measures possible, for procuring the men

31. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress. The word in brackets is in the writing of Washington, who had, previous to this date, requested sentiments on a peace establishment from various officers. Replies were received from Steuben, April 15 and April 21; Gouvion, April 16; Huntington, April 16; Knox, April 17; Heath, April 17; Gov. George Clinton, April 17; Pickering, April 22; Rufus Putnam, April 25; and Edward Hand, undated. All of these replies are in the *Washington Papers*.

32. By the resolve of April 15 the Commander in Chief was instructed to make arrangements with the British commander for receiving possession of the posts held by the British troops in the United States; "and for obtaining the delivery of all negroes and other property of the inhabitants of the United States in the possession of the British forces, or any subject of, or adherents to his said Brittannic Majesty; and that the Secretary at War, in conjunction with the Commander in Chief, take proper arrangements for setting at liberty all land prisoners."

for Garrisoning those Posts. Whether this shall be effected by detaching the *Three* Years men of the present Army, or furnishing them in some other Manner, will be also to determine.

The Posts should certainly be occupied by United States Troops, the Moment they are evacuated by the British. Should this be neglected, I have my fears, that they might be burned or destroyed by the Indians, or some other evil minded persons, whose disaffection to the Government of the United States, may lead them to such Enormities.

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Arrangements for Transporting the necessary Artillery, Stores, Ammunition and Provisions, will require Time, and need immediate Attention. The Season for doing this Work is now on Hand, and, if suffered to pass off, it will be exceeding difficult, [if not impracticable], to effect their Transportation particularly through the small Water Communications, which, in the present season will be found very convenient; but which, the Summer Heats will render so low, as to become almost impassable.

Persuaded that Congress will view these Objects in the same important Light that I do, I promise myself that I shall be favoured with their Instructions at the earliest Moment possible With great Respect etc.³³

33. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Orange Town, May 8, 1783.

Sir: The copy of my Letter of the 21st of April to His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton, with a Copy of his reply to me, which I had the Honor to transmit to your Excellency, will have informed Congress, that the 5th. of this Month was agreed upon between us for an Interview at this place.

In Consequence of this Arrangement I arrived here on the 4th. The Contingents of a Water passage in a frigate, prevented Sir Guy Carletons arrival until the Evening of the 5th. On the 6th. our Interview took place at my Quarters, about three Miles from the River.

Our Conversation upon the different subjects to which my Instructions pointed me, was diffuse and desultory; and closed with a proposition on my part, and acceded to on the part of General Carleton, that the points of discussion should be reduced. to writing.

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I have the Honor to inclose a Copy of the Letter which I wrote to Sir Guy Carleton, the Evening of our Conference; and to which I expected to receive his Answer, being to dine with him the next day on Board the Frigate. Coming on Board the Ship, I found Sir Guy under a very severe Fit of the fever and Ague (a previous fit of which he had experienced the Day of his Arrival). In these Circumstances, and wanting, as he said, to have recourse to some papers in New York, previous to makg. an Answer to my Letter; And at the same Time urged by the Exigency

of other Business, he had determined to return immediately to N York; apologizing to me, and promising that I should hear from him soon, on the Subjects of my proposition. Thus I find myself without an Answer to my Letter, or such an Issue to our Interview as I had wished. And the Ship is this Morning gone down the River.

In this situation, willing to give Congress every Information in my power, I have desired the Gentlemen who were present at the Conversation which passed in our first Interview, to recollect and put in writing the Substance of it. This they have been so obliging as to do, and a Copy of it is enclosed.

As soon as I am possessed of a Reply from General Carleton, to my Letter of the 6th. I will do myself the Honor to transmit a Copy to your Excellency, without delay.

It is my Duty also to inform Congress that, in consequence of their Resolutions of the 15th. of April, and a reference to me of the Letter of Sir Guy Carleton of the 14th. of April, to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs; and not thinking it proper to suffer any further Delay; I have appointed Daniel Parker Esqr. Egbert Benson Esqr. and Lieut Colo Wm. S. Smith, as Commissioners on the Part of the United States, to attend and inspect the Embarkations that in future may be made at N York, previous to the final Evacuation of that City. The powers with which these Gentlemen are vested, will appear from a Copy of their Appointment and Instructions, which is inclosed, and which I hope will meet the Approbation of Congress. I have the Honor etc.³⁹

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39. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on May 12 and referred to James Madison, Abraham Clark, and James Wilson.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Orange Town, April 9, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose you a Copy of the propositions made by Messrs Duer and Parker for advancing 3 Months pay to the Army previous to the dissolution of it, and I do it with the more satisfaction because I cannot but hope from their Letter as well as the conversations I have held with these Gentlemen that the measure will now become practicable, and because I know that the most disagreeable consequences may be apprehended unless the proposed expedient shall be adopted, or some other resource opened which will enable you to furnish at least to the amount of three Months Pay before the Troops shall be disbanded.

Acquainted as you are, with the state of Public Affairs, the present temper and disposition of the Troops, and my sentiments of the importance of this subject, it is unnecessary for me to add any thing farther on it, especially as Mr. Parker (who will be the bearer of this Letter) will be able personally to explain his and my ideas more fully than can be done in writing. I have the honor etc.³¹

31. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 12, 1783.

Sir: Several Motives operate to induce me to transmit to you the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Doctr Craick, Chief Physician to the Army, and to desire you to make a representation thereon to Congress in his Behalf.

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The Doctors Age and Experience, his professional knowledge, with his Care and Attention to the duties of his Department, and his long Continuance in the Service, as well as the Grade he stands in upon the Hospital Arrangement, I think entitle him to a Degree of Superiority over the Hospital Surgeons; who are all, in point of Half pay Emoluments, placed on the same footing with him. This Indiscrimination at the same Time that it militates against the common principles of Subordination, Is contrary I believe, to the practice of all European Nations; the British particularly and some others, make no Distinction in their Service, between the Director of their Hospital, and the Physician in Chief of the Army, each being allowed the same Pay and Emoluments.

In asking an Augmentation of Half pay for Doctr Craick, I would explicitly protest against its extendg to any other Grade of the Hospital; nor would I wish to convey an Idea, that as to him, the Commutation should go to the five Years of his present pay: but that some proper Grade should be fixed on for him, between the Director and the Surgeons of the Hospital, such as Congress may think proper,

from a view of their present pay, a Comparison of their respective subordinate Situations, and agreeable to the principles of the Resolutions allowg Half pay to the Hospital.

This I think would be reasonable, and will be placing the Hospital Department upon their proper footg, conformable to the practice of other Nations.

If this Idea should be adopted, it will undoubtedly extend to the Chief Physician of the Southern Army, who stands in the same predicament with Doct Craick.

Your favor of the 3d of May, with the several enclosures respecting the Indian Negotiation, is received by Yesterdays post. I have the Honor etc.49

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, May 13, 1783.

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Sir: Your favor of the 2d. came to Hand by the last post.

Before this Time, you will have seen the Report I made to Congress of the Interview with Sir Guy Carleton. I am very sorry its Result proved so indecisive. That this arises from the cause you mention, I am not fully persuaded.⁵⁰ I believe a want of Information from his Court, which had been for some Time without any Administration, has been a great Embarrassment to him.

49. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

50. In his letter of May 2 Livingston thought that the time and manner of evacuating New York had not yet been decided on by the British administration. Livingston's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

The civil Jurisdiction of West Chester County, Sir Guy appeared very Willing, in his Conversation, to relinquish to the State, but what reply he will make to the Governor when he comes to reduce it to writing I do not know. Long Island he seemed to think could not be so easily delivered up. It would be attended with many Inconveniencies, and mentional particularly the facility it would give to Desertions, and the necessity of holdg it for the Accommodation of those people who must eventually be obliged to leave the Country. Staten Island was also necessary for his Convenience.

I have had no Reply from Sir Guy since he returned to N York, nor, I presume, has Govr. Clinton heard any thing from him, I have the Honor etc.⁵¹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

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Sir: The inclosed is a Copy of a Letter which I have this moment received from Sir Guy Carleton, in reply to mine of the 6th. of May to him. I transmit it to your Excellency for the Information of Congress.

I shall wait the Instructions of Congress before I answer Sir Guy respecting the Evacuation of Penobscot, in preference to his attendg to that of N York, and will conform myself wholly to their Wishes on that head.

Your Excellency's Favor of the 9th. instant, enclosing Mr. Walke's⁵⁶ Letter to the Delegates of Virginia,⁵⁷ respecting the Negroes in N York, with the Order of Congress thereon I have received this day. If

51. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

56. Thomas Walke.

57. A copy of his letter of May 3 to the Virginia Delegates, and an attested copy of the resolve of Congress of May 8 thereon, are in the *Washington Papers*. The copy of the letter is indorsed by Trumbull "Superceeded by Measures already taken."

Congress shall be please to suggest any further measure on this subject, than are already adopted, I will endeavour to pursue their Directions. With great Respect etc.⁵⁸

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Sir: From the inclosed Transcript of a Letter from M Genl Greene to me, and the Extract of my Reply to him, you will learn, the Wishes of Genl Greene respecting the Removal of the Troops from the Southward. And you will also observe my Opinion thereon, provided no Reasons of Congress shall militate against it.

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Will you be pleased to obtain the Pleasure of Congress on this Subject, and in Consequence, communicate to M Genl Greene, your determinate and decided Instructions thereon.

Enclosed is an Acceptance from the Engineers Department, of the Commutation proposed by the Resolutions of Congress of the 22d of April. Also a Letter from Colo. Humpton of 2d Pennsylvania Rgt. on the same subject. I have the Honor etc.⁷³

58. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

73. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to inclose to you a Memorial which Capt. Segond has presented to me, at the same time soliciting my recommendation to Congress to promote him one Grade, by Brevet, from his present rank; considering the length of his Service and in the full belief that he has been a brave and Zealous Officer I should not hesitate to comply with his request and the more so as it involves no additional Expences but as there is Captain De Pontiere⁷⁴ and perhaps other Officers who have served in the same Rank as long as Captain Segond, it becomes a question if the same favor should be extended to all, or whether Cap Segond's Services have been such as to entitle him to preference; of this you Sir with whom he has chiefly Served will be better able to judge and I therefore take the liberty to refer him to you with the assurance that I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever you may think proper to be done.⁷⁵

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

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Sir: The enclosed Address from the Sergeants of the

74. Capt. Louis de Pontière, of the Continental Dragoons by brevet and aide-de-camp to Baron Steuben. He served to April, 1784.

75. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Connecticut Line of the Army, was presented to me a few Days ago;⁸¹ considering its subject and the manner of Expression, I think it not improper to transmit it to your Excellency, to be laid before Congress.

The Difference mentioned, between them and the Soldier, in their Cloathing and Allowance of Lands, [especially the latter], I think very pertinent; and will be found to be conformable to the practice of European Nations, and is particularly exemplified in the Grant of Lands, made by the British proclamation, alluded to by the Sergeants. Independent of this practice, the reason is well founded, as it serves to prompt that Pride of military distinction, which is necessary in the Sergeant, to raise him to that superiority over the Soldier which it is his Duty to observe; and without which, he will not be able to maintain that Respectability in his Station, which the nature of his Command requires; and which, in all well disciplined Armies, is very essential to the Service. I submit it to the Consideration of Congress; and to their Wisdom I leave its decision.

Your Excellencys favor of the 9th of May, with its Enclosures, was very agreeable; and is acknowledged with much pleasure. With the highest Respect etc.⁸²

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 29th Ult^o. has been duly received.

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81. The original petition of the sergeants of the Connecticut line to the Commander in Chief, dated West Point, May 1, 1783, is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

82. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington. The letter was read in Congress on May 26 and referred to Theodorick Bland, Hugh Williamson, and Nathaniel Gorham.

We are now preparing to carry into execution the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May, and I am making out the furloughs accordingly; but I am extremely apprehensive that insuperable difficulties and the worst of consequences may be expected, unless the Notes⁷ you mention shall be paid to the Officers and Men before their departure from this Cantonment; it is for the sole purpose of bringing them forward to the Pay Mastr with the greatest expedition, that I send the Messenger who is the bearer of this; pray do not delay him a single instant, but if all the Notes should not be ready, forward the remainder by the earliest possible opportunity, and be so good as to inform me when they may be expected.

I write in haste and with earnestness because some circumstances which have just come to my knowledge make it necessary not a moment's time should be lost.

Tho it is much to be lamented that at least a Month's Pay could not have been given to the Troops in Money before they left this place; yet I am in hopes your Notes will in some measure remedy the Evils which might have been expected from their disappointment. Nothing else can now avert the most alarming consequences or distresses of the most cruel nature, particularly to the Officers.

Before I retire from public life, I shall with the greatest freedom give my sentiments to the States on several political subjects, amongst those will be comprehended the particular object you recommend to my attention. With great regard etc.⁸

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7. Morris issued anticipatory "Notes" at 6 months.

Morris had written (May 29): "I shall cause such Notes to be issued for three Months Pay to the Army and I must entreat Sir that every Influence be used with the States to absorb them together with my other Engagements by Taxation. The present Collections are most shameful and afford but a sad Prospect to all those who are dependant upon them." Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

8. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having attentively perused the Letter from Major Genl Knox to you, respecting extra Allowances to him, which you committed to my Consideration; I can with great Truth and Justice say, that the Requests made by Genl Knox, appears to me to be perfectly reasonable and well founded. In the first Instance, the Duties of his Command, from the Time of his first entering the Service, have been arduous and important; and if it was necessary to make the Observation to you, I could add, they have been executed with the greatest Attention, Ability and Satisfaction; as well as with great prudence and Oeconomy for the public. If therefore Congress should be pleased to give him the Allowance for the Time mentioned, for his Extra Services as Master of the Ordnance, I think it would be no more than what Justice Demands for his particular merits; and will involve no disagreeable Consequences.

On the other Head: altho Extra Allowances have been discontinued to Officers commanding in separate Departments, yet General Knox's situation has been very peculiar, for the Time he has commanded at West point; particularly last Year, while the french Army was in the Neighbourhood, Curiosity led many of the most respectable Officers to visit that post, which¹⁷ Circumstance alone, led him, into many unavoidable

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17. At this point the draft has the following: “ *to a Gentleman, possessed as Genl Knox is, of great Hospitality, Politeness and Liberality.*”

Expenses, beyond what any other Situation would have subjected him to. Independent of this particular reason, West point being a Post of great Importance, and much famed for its peculiarity of Situation and Strength, is at all Time subject to much Company, many of whom are so respectable as to claim the Attention of the Commandant. In this View, exclusive of his particular Merits at that post, I think the Request of Genl Knox is extremely reasonable and just; and if Congress should be pleased to grant him some extra Allowance therefor, it would be exceedingly gratefull to me and perfectly conformable to my Wishes. With great Regard etc.¹⁸

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: In answer to your favor of this date respecting the claim of Mr. Trumbull to the Commission of a Lt. Col in the Army, I can without hesitation give it as my opinion he is clearly entitled to such an appointment, for upon the resignation of Lt Colonel Harrison my former Secry. I made the proposal to Mr. Trumbull to accept that Office, assuring him at the same time (as I supposed I had a right to do) that he would be entitled to all the Emoluments which had been granted to his predecessor.

Under the sanction of this Engagement on my part, and considering the important services and great merits

18. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 19, vol. 3, fol. 389.

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of Mr Trumbull, I hold it a duty not only to give my opinion in the manner I have done, but even to interest myself strongly in favour of the promotion. I have the honor etc.¹⁹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: It is with great pleasure I refer to the consideration of Congress the observations contained in the inclosed Memorial which was at my instance put into my hands by Major Genl Duportail for that purpose; And I am happy to observe that the more attention will be due to the sentiments expressed by that General Officer, because they appear not only to be the production of a well informed mind, and the result of much experience, aided by great professional knowledge, but because they seem also to be dictated by a disinterested zeal for the future tranquility and happiness of the United States.

Regarding the principles of defence on which General Du Portail has particularly treated, in a very important point of light; I cannot help recommending a proper consideration of them, in the adoption of a Peace Establishment, so far as they may be found practicable with our means, and applicable to our local circumstances. For altho' the subjects proposed are

19. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

undoubtedly of very great and immediate consequence, and require that something should be done without delay. Yet how far we are able at this time to enter into extensive Arrangements for the fortification of Posts and Harbours, and the establishment of Military Academies &c must be submitted to the wisdom of Congress and rest upon their decision.

But with regard to the proper positions to be occupied by us on the frontier, I must take the liberty to observe, that however just (under other circumstances) the sentiment might have been, that our frontier Posts ought not to be extended to the extreme

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boundaries of the united States; yet it appears to me, that as there are Forts already built at Oswego, Niagara and Detroit which will be surrendered into our hands, that we ought in the first Instance to occupy those in preference to any others, especially as our Posts thus established will fix the authority of the United States throughout the Western Country, more firmly, and perhaps with less expence, than could be effected by any other Arrangement.

And here I beg permission (in case this plan should be adopted) to remind Congress of the ideas suggested in my Letter of the 3d of May, respecting occupying the Posts now in possession of the British, at the moment they shall be evacuated by them, lest they may be burned or destroyed by the savages or others, of which I expressed my apprehensions very fully in the letter before alluded to. I have the honor etc.²⁵

25. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The letter was read in Congress on June 11 and referred to the Committee on Peace Arrangements: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Oliver Ellsworth, James Wilson, and Samuel Holten.

On June 7 Washington wrote a brief acknowledgment to Du Portail for his “observations respecting the fortifications necessary for the United States,” which Washington sent to Congress. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to inclose to your Excellency the Copy of an Address²³ to me, from the Generals and Officers commanding Regiments and Corps, together with my Answer to them. These Enclosures will explain the Distresses which resulted from the measures now carrying into Execution, in Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of the 26th. of May; but the sensibility occasioned by a parting Scene, under such peculiar Circumstances, will not admit of description.

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The two subjects of Complaint with the Army appear to be, the Delay of the three Months pay which had been expected, and the want of a settlement of Accounts. I have thought myself authorized to assure them, Congress had and would attend to their grievances; and have made some little variation respecting furloughs, from what was at first proposed. The Secretary at War will be able to explain the reason and propriety of this Alteration.

While I consider it a Tribute of Justice on this occasion, to mention the temperate and orderly behaviour of the whole Army, and particularly the accommodating spirit of the Officers in arranging themselves to the Command of the Battalions which will be composed of the three Years Men; permit me to recall to Mind all their former sufferings and Merits, and to recommend their reasonable requests to the early and favorable Notice of Congress. With the Highest Respect etc.²⁴

23. Copies of the representation of the general officers to Washington (June 5) and Washington's answer thereto (June 6) are filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

24. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on June 11 and referred to Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Theodorick Bland.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to you, Copies of a Memorial¹¹ of Sundry Officers of the Invalid Regiment, and the Opinion of a Board of Inspection, on their several Cases; which you will be pleased to lay before Congress for their Consideration and Determination.¹² With great Regard etc.¹³

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

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Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: The inclosed paper relative to the Services and Claims of Captn Goodale¹⁴ was handed, to me by Brigd Genl Putnam, With a Wish that it might be laid before Congress. It is now more than two Months since that Application was made by me; has it been submitted to Congress? or am I to suppose that it is forgotten or neglected?

Something peculiar appears in Capt Goodales Case and his pretensions being founded entirely on the Idea of Merit, I am desirous they may be represented in a favorable Light; should Congress, from a Consideration of his Services, compared with their

11. A copy of the memorial is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 149, vol. 3, fol. 33; the original, dated June 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. A copy of the opinion of the Board of Inspection is on folio 41, and the original, dated June 10, is in the *Washington Papers*.

12. Lincoln transmitted the papers to Congress, as requested, June 16; they were referred to Oliver Ellsworth, Alexander Hamilton, and Richard Peters. This committee was changed to James McHenry and Peters (July 23), and James Duane was added July 30.

13. This letter, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 149, vol. 3, fol. 37.

On June 13 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray, ordering him to turn in the waterguard boats to the Quartermaster General; "if the Sergt. and five men you mention are good Oarsmen they may be employed in the General's Barge, otherwise they may join their Regts. At any rate, you can send them with their characters to Head Quarters." Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

14. Capt. Nathan Goodale, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

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established principles of promotion by Merit, think proper to grant the promotion Capt Goodale challenges, I have no Objection to make.

I wish Congress would be pleased to take up the proposal made to you by my Letter of the 1st of April last; it would give much satisfaction to many Officers who are impatiently waiting a decision; should that proposal be complied with, it would include Capt Goodale, and perhaps supercede the Necessity of a particular Determination. I am &c.15

15. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 17, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency for the consideration of Congress, a Petition²² from a large number of Officers of the Army in behalf of themselves, and such other Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army as are entitled to rewards in lands, and may choose to avail themselves of any Priviledges and Grants which shall be obtained in consequence of the present solicitation. I enclose also the Copy of a Letter from Brigr. General Putnam²³ in which the sentiments and expectations of the Petitioners are more fully explained; and in which the ideas of occupying the Posts in the western Country will be found to correspond very nearly with those I have some time since communicated to a Committee of Congress, in treating on the subject of a Peace Establishment. I will beg leave to make a few more observations on the general benefits of the location and Settlement now proposed; and then submit the justice and policy of the measure to the wisdom of Congress.

Altho' I pretend not myself to determine, how far the district of unsettled Country which is described in the Petition is free from the claim of every State, or how far this disposal of it may interfere with the views of Congress; Yet it appears to me this is the Tract which from

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its local position and peculiar advantages ought to be the first settled in preference to any other whatever and I am perfectly convinced that it cannot be so

22. This petition, dated June 16, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 42, vol. 6, fols. 62–71.

23. A copy of Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam's letter of June 16 is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

advantageously settled, by any other Class of Men, as by the disbanded Officers and Soldiers of the Army, to whom the faith of Government hath long since been pledged, that lands should be granted at the expiration of the War, in certain proportions agreeably to their respective grades.

I am induced to give my sentiments thus freely on the advantages to be expected from this plan of Colonization, because it would connect our Governments with the frontiers, extend our Settlements progressively, and plant a brave, a hardy and respectable Race of People, as our advanced Post, who would be always ready and willing (in case of hostility) to combat the Savages, and check their incursions. A Settlement formed by such Men would give security to our frontiers, the very name of it would awe the Indians, and more than probably prevent the murder of many innocent families, which frequently, in their usual mode of extending our Settlements and Encroachments on the hunting grounds of the Natives, fall the hapless Victims to savage barbarity. Besides the emoluments which might be derived from the Peltry Trade at our Factories, if such should be established; the appearance of so formidable a Settlement in the vicinity of their Towns (to say nothing of the barrier it would form against our other Neighbours) would be the most likely means to enable us to purchase upon equitable terms of the Aborigines their right of preoccupancy; and to induce them to relinquish our Territories, and to remove into the illimitable regions of the West.

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Much more might be said of the public utility of such a Location, as well as of the private felicity it would

afford to the Individuals concerned in it. I will venture to say it is the most rational and practicable Scheme which can be adopted by a great proportion of the Officers and Soldiers of our Army, and promises them more happiness than they can expect in any other way. The Settlers, being in the prime of life, inured to hardship and taught by experience to accommodate themselves in every situation, going in a considerable body; and under the patronage of Government, would enjoy in the first instance *advantages* in procuring subsistence, and all the necessaries for a comfortable beginning, superior to any common class of Emigrants and quite unknown to those who have heretofore extended themselves beyond the Apalachian Mountains; they may expect after a little perseverance, *Competence and Independence* for themselves, a pleasant retreat in old age, and the fairest prospects for their Children. I have the honor etc.²⁴

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 23, 1783.

Sir: I think it expedient to transmit to your Excellency a Copy of the Correspondence⁴² which has taken place between our Commissioners for superintending Embarkations in New York, and myself; from their several Reports, Memorials, and Remonstrances,

24. In the writing of David Humphreys. The letter was read in Congress on July 1 and referred to the Grand Committee of May 30, 1783.

42. Inclosed were copies of letters from the Embarkation Commissioners to Washington, May 30; Washington to the Commissioners, June 2; Commissioners to Washington June 14; Washington to Carleton, June 2; Commissioners to Washington, June 18; Washington to the Commissioners, June 10.

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Congress will be informed of the almost total inefficacy of the Measures which have been adopted for carrying the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty into effect.

Finding that merely the superintendence of Embarkations, ([and that only when called upon] by the British) without the power of restraining the Property of the Inhabitants of the United States from being carried away, could be of little utility; having been also informed that the *departure* of all Negroes (who choose to go away) indiscriminately and without examination in private Vessels, is, if not publicly allowed, at least connived at, and conceiving this to be the only species of property that can at present require attention: I cannot think there will be much advantage in continuing our Commissioners any longer at New York, and I take the liberty therefore to suggest whether it would not be eligible to revoke the Commission. Indeed I should have thought myself authorized to decide upon this point, had I not apprehended it might eventually involve consequences of considerable national concern; it was on this account I deemed it more expedient to lay the state of this business before Congress, and to ask their farther Orders on the subject. I have the honor etc.

P.S. I am favored with your Letter of the 14th.⁴³ and will cause immediate attention to be paid to the Contents of it.⁴⁴

43. Boudinot's letter, respecting the delay in engraving and shipping the two cannon presented by Congress to Comte de Grasse, is in the *Washington Papers*.

44. In the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets in the draft is in the writing of Washington. The letter was read in Congress on July x and referred to Hugh Williamson, James Madison, and Jacob Read.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 23, 1783.

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Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency copy of a Letter I have received from Mr. Reuben Harvey of Cork in Ireland, and sundry papers which accompanied it.⁴⁶

The early part this Gentleman appears to have taken in the cause of this Country, and his exertions in relieving the distresses of such of our fellow Citizens, whom the chance of War threw into the hands of the Enemy, entitle him to the esteem of every American and will doubtless have due weight in recommending [him] to the notice of Congress. I have the honor etc.⁴⁷

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, evening, June 24, 1783.

Sir: It was not until 3 o'clock this afternoon, that I had the first intimation of the infamous and outrageous Mutiny of a part of the Pennsylvania Troops; it was then I received your Excellency's Letter of the 21st. by your express, and agreeable to the request contained in it, I instantly ordered Three compleat Regiments

46. Reuben Harvey's letter of February 12 is in the Washington Papers. It was forwarded to Washington by Daniel Cullimore, of New York.

47. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on July 1 and referred to Jacob Read, William Ellery, and James McHenry.

of Infantry and a Detachment of Artillery to be put in motion as soon as possible; This Corps (which you will observe by the Returns, is a large proportion of our whole Force) will consist of [upwards of 1500] effectives. As all the troops who composed this gallant little Army, as well those who were furloughed as those who remain in Service, are Men of tried fidelity, I could not have occasion to make any choice of Corps, and I have only to regret, that there existed a necessity, they should be employed on so disagreeable a Service. I

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dare say however, they will on this and all other occasions, perform their duty as brave and faithful Soldiers.

While I suffer the most poignant distress in observing that a [handful of Men contemptible in numbers, and equally so in point of Service; if the Veteran Troops from the Southward have not been seduced by their example, and who are not worthy to be called Soldiers,] should disgrace themselves as the Pennsylvania Mutineers have done, by insulting the Sovereign Authority [of the United States, and that of their own]; I feel an [in] expressible satisfaction, that even this behaviour cannot stain the name of the American Soldiery; it cannot be imputable to, or reflect dishonour on the Army at large; but on the contrary, it will, by the striking contrast it exhibits, hold up to public view the other Troops, in the most advantageous point of light; Upon taking all the circumstances into consideration, I cannot sufficiently express my surprise and indignation, at the arrogance, the folly and the wickedness of the Mutineers; nor can I sufficiently admire the fidelity, the bravery and the patriotism, which must forever signalize the unsullied Character of the other Corps of our Army; for when we consider that these

Pennsylvania Levies who have now mutinied, are Recruits and Soldiers of a day, who have not born the heat and burden of the War, and who can have in reality very few hardships to complain of, and when we at the same time recollect, that those Soldiers who have lately been furloughed from this Army, are the Veterans who have patiently endured hunger, nakedness and cold, who have suffered and bled without a murmur, and who with perfect good order have retired to their homes, without the settlement of their Accounts or a farthing of money in their pockets, we shall be as much astonished at the virtues of the latter, as we are struck with horror and detestation at the proceedings of the former; and every candid mind, without indulging ill-grounded prejudices, will undoubtedly make the proper discrimination.

I intended only to wait until the Troops were collected and had occupied their new Camp, in order to make a full Report to Congress of the measures which have been taken in

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consequence of the Resolution of the 26th. of May. Notwithstanding the option which was given, in my answer to the address of the Generals and Officers Commanding Regiments and Corps, which has been already sent to your Excellency. No Soldiers, [except a very few, whose homes are within the enemies lines], and a very small number of Officers, have thought proper to avail themselves of it, by remaining with the Army. A list of those who remain, is herewith transmitted. The Men engaged to serve three years were then formed into Regts. and Corps in the following manner, viz. The Troops of Massachusetts composed 4 Regiments, Connecticut 1 Regt., New Hampshire 5 Companies, Rhode Island 2 Companies, Massachusetts Artillery 3 Companies

and New York Artillery 2 Companies, the total strength will be seen by the Weekly state, which is also forwarded.

The Army being thus reduced to merely a competent Garrison for West Point, [that being the only object of import. in this War], and it being necessary to employ a considerable part of the Men in building an Arsenal and Magazines at that Post, [agreeably to the directions given by the Secy. at War], the Troops accordingly broke up the Cantonment yesterday, and removed to that Garrison, where Majr. General Knox still retains the Command. The Detachment which marches for Philadelphia, will be under the orders of Majr. Genl. Howe, Majr. Genl. Heath [having,] at his own particular request, retired from the field; the Brigadiers now remaining with the Army, are Paterson, Huntington and Greacon, besides the Adjutant General. Thus have I given the present state of our Military affairs, and hope the Arrangements will be satisfactory to Congress. I have the honor etc.

P.S. Should any thing turn up, which may prevent the necessity of the Troops proceeding to Philadelphia, I am to request your Excellency will send the earliest intimation to the Commanding Officer, that the Detachment may return immediately. The Route will be by Ringwood, Pompton, Morristown, Princeton and Trenton, on which your Express may meet the Corps.⁵³

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53. In the writing of David Cobb. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 25, 9 o'clock P.M., 1783.

Sir: I am honored by your Excellency's Letter dated the 21st inst. 11 o'clock P.M., enclosing the Resolutions of Congress⁶⁰ of the same date.

Congress will have been informed by mine of last evening, which was forwarded by your returning Express this morning, that I had, in consequence of the intimation contained in your Excellency's former Letter, anticipated their Orders expressed in the above mentioned Resolutions, the Troops have commenced their March accordingly, and encamp this night at the Forest of Dean, eight Miles from West Point; I have therefore nothing farther to add except that I am etc.⁶¹

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 30, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's favor of the 26th, and to thank you for the information contained in it.

If Congress should have already taken up, or should

60. The resolves of June 21, after reciting that the authority of the United States "having been this day grossly insulted by the disorderly and menacing appearance of a body of armed soldiers...that the Secretary at War be directed to communicate to tile Commander in Chief, the state and disposition of the said troops, in order that he may take immediate measures to dispatch to this city, such forces as he may judge expedient for suppressing any disturbances that may ensue." Congress adjourned on June 21 and removed to Princeton, N.J., where they convened on June 30.

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61. In the writing of David Cobb.

they be about to determine upon the subject of receiving possession of the Posts on the Western Frontier, which was mentioned in my Letters of the 3d of May and 7th of June, I would take the liberty to recommend Major General the Baron Steuben (who will have the honor of delivering this Letter) as a Gentleman very much acquainted with Military Dispositions, as well as with the Language commonly spoken in Canada, and on those accounts, particularly calculated to make the Arrangements which may be necessary on this occasion; The Baron will not hesitate to undertake the negotiation with General Haldimand, if it should be agreeable to the sentiments of Congress, and I need only add that from the zeal and intelligence he has always manifested in the public Service, a judgment may be formed of the attention and fidelity which may be expected from him in the performance of this or any other duty which shall be committed to his charge. I have the honor etc.⁶⁴

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, July 1, 1783.

Dr. Sir: The enclosed is a Copy of a Letter which I received a few Days ago, from an Officer of some Brunswick Troops, prisoners at Rutland. By some means, it would seem they have been overlooked in the Discharge of Prisoners. If Orders are not already

64. In the writing of David Cobb. The letter was read in Congress on July 4 and referred to James Madison, Oliver Ellsworth, and Benjamin Hawkins.

given, will you be pleased to forward Directions for their Liberation as soon as possible. I should not have hesitated to have done this myself, had I known to whom I should direct my Orders.

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Enclosed are also the Copies of a Letter and Memorial of the Regimental Mates of the Army, which I transmit to you, to be laid before Congress. That Hono Body, being perfectly possessed of their Original principles and Ideas, respectg this grade of Officers, will determine on the propriety of this Application. I have no wish to interfere in the Matter.⁶⁸

68. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 5 [-8], 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency will find sundry Papers inclosed from No. 1 to No. 4 inclusive,⁷⁸ respecting the pretended promotion of several Officers in Brigadier General Hazen's Regt.; the reason of my refusal to accept the return in question, without the farther sanction of Authority, will be understood from a perusal of the inclosures; and as the monthly returns cannot be compleated until the necessary advice shall be received I am to request the favor of an Answer as soon as may be convenient, that I may know whether the promotions have actually taken place or not, and in what point of light the affair is to be considered by me. I have the honor etc.

PS 8th July.

An expected Opportunity of sendg this Letter having failed, I now have the Honor to acknowledge your Excellencys favor of the 5th. enclosing an Extract from the minutes of Congress respecting the motives of their removal to Princeton. I thank your Excellency for this Communication, and have the Honor &c.⁷⁹

78. The inclosures were copies of Hand's letter to Hazen, July 3; Hazen to Hand, July 3; Hand to Washington, July 4; and Washington to Hand, July 4.

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79. In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on July 11 and referred to the Secretary at War to report.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, July 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency's Letters of the 3d and 8th are received. The Judge Advocate was gone on by my Directions, before the hint you gave me in that of the 3d.

It would seem there has been some capital neglect, or Miscarriage in the transmission of the Act of Congress of the 12th of May. I never had the least Intimation of it, until the 7th instant, when I received it from the War Office. Baron Steuben is furnished with my Letters and Instructions, and will depart on his mission, as soon as possible.

The inclosed Memorial was handed to me, from some Officers of Hazens Regiment, Refugees from Canada;⁵

5. A translation by Benjamin Walker of this memorial, ill the *Washington Papers* under date of July 14, is indorsed by Trumbull: "Original in french sent to Congress 16th." The committee books of the Continental Congress show that this letter was referred on July 23 to James McHenry. Arthur Lee, and James Madison, who reported (July 26), but no record of this is found in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*.

anxious for their Relief from the most distressing Situation, and finding myself without the Means or the power of doing it, I beg leave to refer their Circumstances to the particular Attention and Regard of Congress; these with many others are the Men, who as they will say, have left their Country, their friends, their Substance, their all, in support of the Liberties of America; and have followed our fortunes thro' the various Scenes of a distressing Contest, untill they find it to have terminated in the happiest manner for all, but themselves. Some provision is certainly due to those people who now are exiled

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from their native Country and habitations, without any mention made of them in the Treaty, any Stipulation for their return, or any Means for their Subsistence in a country which their Arms have contributed to secure and establish. When Congress recollect the Encouragements, the promises and Assurances, which were published by them and their Orders, in Canada, in the Years 1775 and 6, I am persuaded they will take into their most serious Consideration the Case of those unhappy persons who placed Confidence in those proclamations, and make ample amends by some effectual provision for their Sufferings, patience and perseverance. I would not presume to dictate. But if Congress cannot procure funds for their Compensation and Subsistence from the ample Confiscations which are makg within the different States, I would think a grant could be made to them from the unlocated Lands in the interior parts of our Territory and some means advanced, to place them on such a Tract; this perhaps might prove satisfactory, and would enable them to form a Settlement which may be beneficial to themselves and useful to the United States.

I will say no more, but repeat my recommendations of their case to the grateful remembrance of Congress, and beg, that a speedy Attention may be given to their Application, which I have advised them to make without Delay.

Finding myself in most disagreeable Circumstances here, and like to be so, so long as Congress are pleased to continue me in this awkward Situation, anxiously expecting the Definitive Treaty, without Command and with little else to do, than to be teased with troublesome Applications and fruitless Demands, which I have neither the means or the power of satisfying; in this distressing Tædium, I have resolved to wear away a little Time, in performg a Tour to the Northward, as far as Tyconderoga and Crown point, and perhaps as far up the Mohawk River as fort Schuyler. I shall leave this place on Friday next, and shall probably be gone about two weeks, unless my Tour should be interrupted by some special recall. One Gentleman of my Family will be left here,⁶ to receive any Letters on

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Commands, and to forward to me any Thing that shall be necessary. With great Respect etc.⁷

6. Lieut. Col. Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

7. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On July 16 Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. Robert Howe, that before the receipt of his letter of July 7 the Judge Advocate had set off to join Howe, "I hope that by this time you have got thro' this troublesome business." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, August 6, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency's several favors, of the 17th, 24th and 31st of July, were received at Head Quarters during my Absence, and have been presented to me on my Return last Evening, which I effected by Water from Albany.

My Tour having been extended as far Northward as Crown point, and Westward to Fort Schuyler and its District, and my movements have been pretty rapid, my Horses, which are not yet arrived, will be so much fatigued that they will need some days to recruit. This Circumstance, with some Arrangements which will be necessary, previous to my leaving this place, will prevent my complying with the pleasure of Congress, intimated in your Letter of 31st, so soon perhaps as may be expected. In the mean Time, your Excellency will have an Opportunity of transmitting to me the Resolution²⁸ mentioned, that I may be acquainted with the Objects Congress have in view by my Attendance at Princeton, and that I may prepare myself to

28. The resolve of July 28.

fulfill their Expectations to the utmost of my power.²⁹ With great Regard etc.³⁰

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I was the more particularly induced by two considerations, to make the Tour which in my Letter of the 16th Ult. I informed Congress I had in contemplation, and from which I returned last evening; the one was an inclination of seeing the Northern and Western Posts in this State, with those places which have been the Theatre of important Military transactions; the other a desire to facilitate (as far as is in my power) the operations which will be necessary for occupying the Posts which are ceded by the Treaty of Peace, as soon as they shall be evacuated by the British Troops.

Aware of the difficulties we should have to encounter in accomplishing the last mentioned object, on account of the advanced Season, and the want of money to give vigor to our movements, I inserted a clause in the Instructions of the Baron Steuben (a Copy of which I have the honor to inclose) authorizing him in case these difficulties should become insurmountable, or in case the arrival of the Definitive Treaty should be delayed beyond expectation, to agree with some of the respectable and well affected Inhabitants of Detroit to preserve the Fortifications and public Buildings at that place, until

29. Boudinot answered (August 13): "The Resolution of Congress requested by your Excellency was forwarded several days since, but it cannot answer your expectations. Congress wished to have your Excellency's personal aid at forming the peace arrangement whenever that Report was called up; but your disagreeable situation arising from the unexpected and unaccountable delay of the definitive Treaty, hastened the measure of requesting your Excellency's attendance...Congress...have directed a House and standing Furniture to be taken for your Excellency within three or four miles of this place." Boudinot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

30. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

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such time as a Garrison could be sent with provisions and Stores, sufficient to take and hold possession of them; the propriety of this measure has appeared in a more forcible point of view since I have been up the Mohawk River and taken a view of the situation of things in that quarter, for upon a carefull inquiry, I find it is the opinion of those who are best acquainted with the distances and communications, that nothing short of the greatest exertion, and a sum adequate to the transportation, can even at this Season furnish us with Boats and enable us to forward Provisions and Stores sufficient for a Garrison to be supported at Detroit during the ensuing Winter; and without an immediate supply of money that it would be in vain to make the attempt.

Influenced by this information, believing there was not a moment to be lost, and apprehending the Baron Steuben might be retarded in his progress by some unforeseen event; I engaged at Fort Rensselaer a Gentleman whose name is Cassedy, formerly a resident at Detroit, and who is well recommended, to proceed without loss of time, find out the disposition of the Inhabitants and make every previous inquiry which might be necessary for the information of the Baron on his arrival, that he should be able to make such final arrangements as the circumstances might appear to justify. This seemed to be the best alternative, on failure of furnishing a Garrison of our own Troops; which for many reasons would be infinitely the most eligible mode, if the season and our means would possibly admit.

I have at the same time endeavoured

to take the best preparatory steps in my power for supplying all the Garrisons on the Western Waters by the Provision Contract; I can only form my Magazine at Fort Herkimer on the German flats, which is 32 Miles by land and almost fifty by Water from the carrying place between the Mohawk River and the Wood Creek; the route by the former is impracticable in the present state for Carriages and by the other extremely difficult for Batteaux as the River is very much obstructed with fallen and floating Trees from the long disuse of the navigation. That nothing however which depends upon me might be left

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undone, I have directed Ten months Provision for 500 Men to be laid up at Fort Harkimer; and have ordered Colo. Willet (an active and good Officer commanding the State Troops of this State) to repair the Roads, remove the obstructions in the River, and as far as can be effected by the labour of the Soldiers, build Houses for the reception of the Provisions and Stores at the Carrying place, in order that the whole may be in perfect readiness to move forward so soon as the Arrangements shall be made with General Haldimand. I shall give instructions to Majr General Knox to have such Ordnance and Stores forwarded to Albany as, in the present View of Matters, may be judged necessary for the Western Posts, and I will also write to the Quarter Master General by this conveyance on the subject of Batteaux and the other Articles which may be required from his Department; however without money to provide some Boats and to pay the expence of transportation it will be next to impossible to get these things even to Niagara. I have the honor etc.³¹

31. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on September 10 and referred to James Duane, Richard Peters, Daniel Carroll, Benjamin Hawkins, and Arthur Lee.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I thank you for the Communication which you have been pleased to make to me under the 11th. of July. It was handed to me on my return last evening from a Tour I have been making to the Northward and Westward, as far as Crown point and Fort Schuyler, to view the Posts and Country in that part of the United States's Territory.

The anticipations you have been obliged to make are indeed great, and your Circular Letter to the States³² on the occasion, appears to me sufficient, if any thing of the kind can be so, to arouse their attention to the necessity of your Circumstances, I most sincerely wish it may have the desired effect.

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In consequence of my Tour to the Northward, the Qur. Mr. General will have my Orders to prepare Batteaux and other means of Transportation to the upper Posts, of the Cannon, Stores and Provisions which will be absolutely necessary for possessing and maintaining them. To effect this, some Money will be necessary, and I give you this Information, that a demand will probably be made on you for the purpose.

The State of New York who are deeply interested in the security of these Posts, and effecting this business, may perhaps be prevailed on to furnish the necessary sums, to be placed to General Account, they will probably exert themselves in this case preferably to any other. I give you this hint and leave its improvement

32. Of July 11. A contemporary copy is in the *Washington Paper*.

to you.

Knowing your situation, I am pained when necessity obliges me to make any application for Money. But this purpose, is of so great importance to the Interests of the United States and of so urgent necessity, that if the sums required cannot be obtained in the way I have hinted, I must entreat you to give every Assistance to Colo. Pickering that shall be necessary. I am &c.33

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, August 14, 1783.

Sir: By the last post, I was honored with your Excellencys favor of the 1st inst. enclosing the resolve of Congress, directing my attendance at Princeton; notwithstanding my Horses had arrived but a Day or two before, and were much fatigued, I should have set out immediately, had it not been for the indisposition of Mrs Washington, who, during my Absence had been seized with a fever, had a return of it since, and is now in a very weak and low State. This Circumstance, together with a desire of packing my papers, and making arrangements for a final remove (being uncertain of the Objects Congress have in

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view by my attendance, or how long I may be detained at Princeton) will I hope avail as an Excuse for my delay.

33. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

I propose setting out on Monday next, provided Mrs Washingtons Health will admit, or I should have nothing from Congress in the mean Time, to prevent my Intentions. With great Respect etc.⁵⁷

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, August 25, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 12th of this Month.

Not having heard from the Quarter Master General since I had the pleasure to write to you on the 6 Inst. and the season advancing so rapidly, I though it highly necessary before I left the No. River, to begin the necessary preparations for Garrisoning the Western Posts; to do this I was obliged to call on Governor Clinton to advance £500 which he has promised to do and farther Sums on the conditions contained in the inclosed copy of a Memorandum, which he gave me on the occasion and which is submitted to your consideration. Besides the sums which will be wanted to complete this business, it may not be amiss to observe that from the nature of the Service, some advance of Pay to the Officers and Men will be absolutely necessary to enable them to carry with them many Articles not to be procured where they are going.⁷⁶

57. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on August 22.

76. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

ADDRESS TO CONGRESS⁷⁹

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Princeton, August 26, 1783.

Mr. President: I am too sensible of the honorable reception I have now experienced not to be penetrated with the deepest feelings of gratitude.

Notwithstanding Congress appear to estimate the value of my life beyond any Services I have been able to render the U States, yet I must be permitted to consider the Wisdom and Unanimity of our National Councils, the firmness of our Citizens, and the patience and Bravery of our Troops, which have produced so happy a termination of the War, as the most conspicuous effect of the divine interposition, and the surest presage of our future happiness.

Highly gratified by the favorable sentiments which Congress are pleased to express of my past conduct, and amply rewarded by the confidence and affection of my fellow Citizens, I cannot hesitate to contribute my best endeavours, towards the establishment of the National security, in whatever manner the Sovereign Power may think proper to direct, until the ratification of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, or the final evacuation of our Country by the British Forces; after either of which events, I shall ask permission to retire to the peaceful shade of private life.

Perhaps, Sir, No occasion may offer more suitable than the present, to express my humble thanks to God, and my grateful acknowledgments to my Country, for the great and uniform support I have received in every vicissitude of Fortune, and for the

79. According to order, the Commander in Chief was escorted by 2 Delegates ("Two first members present of Committee", which had been appointed to draft the address of the President of Congress to the General) to a chair on the President's right, who remained seated and with his hat on addressed the General thus:

"Sir, Congress feel a particular pleasure in seeing your Excellency, and in congratulating you on the success of a war, in which you have acted so conspicuous a part.

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“It has been the singular happiness of the United States, that, during a war so long, so dangerous, and so important, Providence has been graciously pleased to preserve the life of a general, who has merited and possessed the uninterrupted confidence and affection of his fellow-citizens. In other nations many have performed services, for which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public. But to you, sir, peculiar praise is due. Your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country. They deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation. Those acknowledgments, Congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your Excellency.

“Hostilities have now ceased, but your country still needs your services. She wishes to avail herself of your talents in forming the arrangements that will be necessary for her in the time of peace. For this reason your attendance at Congress has been requested. A committee is appointed to confer with your Excellency, and to receive your assistance in preparing and digesting plans relative to those important objects.”

A draft of this address is in the *Washington Papers*.

many distinguished honors which Congress have been pleased to confer upon me in the course of the War.⁸⁰

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, August 26, 1783.

Sir: I cannot but think it essential that Congress should be informed of the disposition and conduct of the British Officers at the Western Posts, of our frontier Inhabitants, and of the Savages, in order that adequate Measures may be taken to avail ourselves of any favorable circumstances to prevent Hostilities, and to place that extent of Territory which is ceded to us, under some proper Regulations; It is for these purposes, I have taken the

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liberty of enclosing to your Excellency the Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Colo. DePuyster, and the Copy of another Letter from Brigadr. General Maclean,⁸¹ which were received yesterday under cover from Colo. Willett. I have the honor etc.⁸²

80. In the writing of a clerk in the office of the Secretary of Congress, with a few changes in the writing of Benjamin Walker and the date in that of David Cobb.

81. Copies of the letters of Lieut. Col. Arent Schuyler de Peyster (Eighth Foot, British Army) to Brig. Gen. Allan Maclean, July 17, and Maclean to Colonel Willett, July 31, are in the *Washington Papers*.

82. In the writing of David Cobb. The letter was read in Congress on August 27 and referred to James Duane, Richard Peters, and Daniel Carroll.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky hill, August 28, 1783.

Sir: Having just received the inclosed Letter from the Chevalier Heintz,⁸⁵ containing propositions to Congress respecting the admission of a Number of American Characters as Members of an Order lately instituted in Poland, together with a List of the present Knights of the Order; I think it my duty to submit the Originals in the state they came into my hands to the consideration of Congress, and to request, that, I may be honored with their Instructions on the Subject, so that I may be able at the time of acknowledging the receipt of the Letter to make a reply to the proposals contained therein. With perfect respect etc.⁸⁶

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

August 30, 1783.

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Sir: I have the honor to inclose for the information of Congress the report of the Baron de Steuben, who was sent into Canada to make arrangements with Genl. Haldimand for withdrawing the British forces from the Posts within the Territory of the United States. The Letter from Genl. Haldimand to me, referred to in his Letter

85. The letter of Major Chevalier Jean de Heintz of May 13, together with a small pamphlet (20 pages) of "L'Ordre institute en honeur de la Providence Divine etc.," is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

86. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on August 29 and referred to William Ellery, Arthur Lee, Ralph Izard, Richard Peters, and James McHenry.

of the 13th Instt. to the Baron is not yet come to hand.⁹⁴

The Embarrassments which this business has met with at this advanced Season, have induced me to suspend the March of the Detachment, removal of the Stores, and purchase of Salt Provisions which were intended for those Western Posts. I have however desired Colo. Willet with the State Troops of New York to continue workg. upon the Land and Water Communication between Schenectady and the Wood Creek that our operation may be facilitated hereafter. With great respect etc.⁹⁵

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, August 30, 1783.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity of informing you, that the Baron Steuben has returned from Canada without being able to accomplish any part of the business he had in charge. In consequence of which and of the late Season of the Year, I have judged it impossible to take possession of the Western Posts this fall and have ordered a Stop to be put to the movement of Troops and Stores, and to the preparations which were making for that purpose; of which I have given notice to the Qr. Mr. Genl. and to the Contractors, and have

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taken every other precaution in my power to prevent the accumulation of unnecessary expences. I have &c.96

94. Contemporary copies of this letter from Haldimand to Washington, Aug. 13, 1783, are in the *Washington Papers* and the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. One of them was forwarded to Congress by Washington, in a brief note, dated Sept. 4, 1783, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

95. The signed letter sent to Congress is in the writing of David Cobb. It was read in Congress on September 1 and referred to Ralph Izard, Benjamin Hawkins, James Duane, Arthur Lee, and Stephen Higginson. Filed with it are copies of letters: Steuben to Washington, August 23; Steuben to Haldimand, August 3; Haldimand to Steuben, August 6; Steuben to Haldiman, August 11; Haldimand to Steuben, August 13. The above text is from the autograph draft in the *Washington Papers*. It varies from the letter sent in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation only.

96. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Sir: I enclose you the Copy of a Letter from Captn. Segond in behalf of himself and Lieut Boulieu, the only remaining Officers of Pulaski's Legion; if the peculiar circumstances of those Gentlemen are such as will exclude them from emoluments to which they ought to be entitled in common with other officers, and if it shall not be in your power to give adequate relief, I must request you will be pleased to lay their case before Congress and take the orders of that Honble Body on the subject. I judged this the proper channel of application and have referred Capt Segond to you accordingly; informing him at the same time that he must be under a mistake as to the obligations of his Parole, from which I conceived him to be wholly and absolutely liberated. I have the honor etc.99

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99. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Practically this same letter was written to Capt. James Second on August 31 by Washington. A copy of the draft is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

On August 31 Washington wrote to the Superintendent of Finance forwarding him the estimate and pay requisition for Varick's writers, who had finished their work. A copy of this draft is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

***To JAMES McHENRY**

Rocky Hill, September 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: [I have thrown together the following sentiments on the papers you put into my hand yesterday.]

Brevets which have been given with conditions annexed, ought, undoubtedly, to have the conditions fulfilled; because it is a contract between the Parties.

Simple Brevets, must be determined by the usage and Custom of other Armies, if there is no established rule for considering them in our own; I never considered them in any other light than as conferring Rank without pay or emoluments; and this, I believe (and indeed am almost sure) is the view of them in the British Service. They are intended *generally* as a Compliment; they give command, and place an Officer in the road of permant. Promotion.

I cannot⁷ see how Brevets considered in these lights, or indeed [in] any other, can have a disagreeable operation [in the] promotion of Officers of a certain standing, a grade higher, when the proposition was express that no emoluments should be annexed, nor the Public burthened⁸ [in the least degree]; if however the Public have any suspicions, that the

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Officers thus promoted will avail themselves of it to enhance their emoluments, the Secretary at War may be directed to inform the pay Master Genl. that such promotions do not entitle

7. Washington first wrote "for the life of me" and then crossed it off.

8. Washington here wrote: "one farthing by it."

them to pay, or emoluments; which will sufficiently check any evils the Government may fear, and supercede the necessity of any explanatory Resolution, which might perhaps injure the feelings of those Officers whom Congress in this instance wish to gratify.⁹

***To JAMES DUANE¹⁴**

Rocky Hill, September 7, 1783.

Sir: I have carefully perused the Papers which you put into my hands relative to Indian Affairs.

My Sentiments with respect to the proper line of Conduct to be observed towards these people coincides precisely with those delivered by Genl. Schuyler, so far as he has gone in his Letter of the 29th. July to Congress (which, with the other Papers is herewith returned), and for the reasons he has there assigned; a repetition of them therefore by me would be unnecessary. But independant of the arguments made use of by him the following considerations have no small weight in my Mind.

To suffer a wide extended Country to be over run with Land Jobbers, Speculators, and Monopolisers or even with scatter'd settlers, is, in my opinion, inconsistent with that wisdom and policy which our true interest dictates, or that an enlightened People ought to adopt and, besides, is pregnant of disputes both with the Savages,

9. The parts in brackets are in the writing of David Cobb.

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14. Chairman of the Committee of Congress to confer with the Commander in Chief.

and among ourselves, the evils of which are easier, to be conceived than described; and for what? but to aggrandize a few avaricious Men to the prejudice of many, and the embarrassment of Government. for the People engaged in these pursuits without contributing in the smallest degree to the support of Government, or considering themselves as amenable to its Laws, will involve it by their unrestrained conduct, in inextricable perplexities, and more than probable in a great deal of Bloodshed.

My ideas therefore of the line of Conduct proper to be observed not only towards the Indians, but for the government of the Citizens of America, in their Settlement of the Western Country (which is intimately connected therewith) are simply these.

First and as a preliminary, that all Prisoners of whatever age or Sex, among the Indians shall be delivered up.

That the Indians should be informed, that after a Contest of eight years for the Sovereignty of this Country G: Britain has ceded all the Lands of the United States within the limits discribed by the arte. of the Provisional Treaty.

That as they (the Indians) maugre all the advice and admonition which could be given them at the commencement; and during the prosecution of the War could not be restrained from acts of Hostility, but were determined to join their Arms to those of G Britain and to share their fortune; so, consequently, with a less generous People than Americans they would be made to share the same fate; and be compell'd to retire along with them beyond the Lakes. But as we prefer Peace to a state of Warfare,

as we consider them as a deluded People; as we perswade ourselves that they are convinced, from experience, of their error in taking up the Hatchet against us, and that their true Interest and safety must now depend upon *our* friendship. As the Country, is

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large enough to contain us all; and as we are disposed to be kind to them and to partake of their Trade, we will from these considerations and from motives of Compn., draw a veil over what is past and establish a boundary line between them and us beyond which we will *endeavor* to restrain our People from Hunting or Settling, and within which they shall not come, but for the purposes of Trading, Treating, or other business unexceptionable in its nature.

In establishing this line, in the first instance, care should be taken neither to yield nor to grasp at too much. But to endeavor to impress the Indians with an idea of the generosity of our disposition to accommodate them, and with the necessity we are under, of providing for our Warriors, our Young People who are growing up, and strangers who are coming from other Countries to live among us. and if they should make a point of it, or appear dissatisfied at the line we may find it necessary to establish, compensation should be made them for their claims within it.

It is needless for me to express more explicitly because the tendency of my observns. evinces it is my opinion that if the Legislature of the State of New York should insist upon expelling the Six Nations from all the Country they Inhabited previous to the War, within their Territory (as General Schuyler seems to be apprehensive of) that it will end in another Indian War. I have every reason to believe

from my enquiries, and the information I have received, that they will not suffer their Country (if it was our policy to take it before we could settle it) to be wrested from them without another struggle. That they would compromise for a part of it I have very little doubt, and that it would be the cheapest way of coming at it, I have no doubt at all. The same observations, I am perswaded, will hold good with respect to Virginia, or any other state which has powerful Tribes of Indians on their Frontiers; and the reason of my mentioning New York is because General Schuyler has expressed his opinion of the temper of its Legislature; and because I have been more in the way of learning the Sentimts. of the Six Nations, than of any other Tribes of Indians on this Subject.

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The limits being sufficiently extensive (in the New Ctry.) to comply with all the engagements of Government and to admit such emigrations as may be supposed to happen within a given time not only from the several States of the Union but from Foreign Countries, and moreover of such magnitude as to form a distinct and proper Government; a Proclamation in my opinion, should issue, making it Felony (if there is power for the purpose and if not imposing some very heavy restraint) for any person to Survey or Settle beyond the Line; and the Officers Commanding the Frontier Garrison should have pointed and peremptory orders to see that the Proclamation is carried into effect.

Measures of this sort would not only obtain Peace from the Indians, but would, in my opinion, be the surest means of preserving it. It would dispose of the Land to the

best advantage; People the Country progressively, and check Land Jobbing and Monopolizing (which is now going forward with great avidity) while the door would be open, and the terms known for every one to obtain what is reasonable and proper for himself upon legal and constitutional ground.

Every advantage that could be expected or even wished for would result from such a mode of procedure our Settlements would be compact, Government well established, and our Barrier formidable, not only for ourselves but against our Neighbours, and the Indians as has been observed in Genl Schuylers Letter will ever retreat as our Settlements advance upon them and they will be as ready to sell, as we are to buy; That it is the cheapest as well as the least distressing way of dealing with them, none who are acquainted with the Nature of Indian warfare, and has ever been at the trouble of estimating the expence of one, and comparing it with the cost of purchasing their Lands, will hesitate to acknowledge.

Unless some such measures as I have here taken the liberty of suggesting are speedily adopted one of two capital evils, in my opinion, will inevitably result, and is near at hand; either that the settling, or rather overspreading the Western Country will take place,

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by a parcel of Banditti, who will bid defiance to all Authority while they are skimming and disposing of the Cream of the Country at the expence of many suffering Officers and Soldiers who have fought and bled to obtain it, and are now waiting the decision of Congress to point them to the promised reward of their past dangers and toils, or a renewal of Hostilities with the Indians, brought about more than probably,

by this very means.

How far agents for Indian Affrs. are indispensably necessary I shall not take upon me to decide; but if any should be appointed, their powers in my opinion should be circumscribed, accurately defined, and themselves rigidly punished for every infraction of them. A recurrence to the conduct of these People under the British Administration of Indian Affairs will manifest the propriety of this caution, as it will there be found, that self Interest was the principle by which their Agents were actuated; and to promote this by accumulating Lands and passing large quantities of Goods thro their hands, the Indians were made to speak any language they pleased by their representation; were pacific or hostile as their purposes were most likely to be promoted by the one or the other. No purchase under any pretence whatever should be made by any other authority than that of the Sovereign power, or the Legislature of the State in which such Lands may happen to be. Nor should the Agents be permitted directly or indirectly to trade; but to have a fixed, and ample Salary allowed them as a full compensation for their trouble.

Whether in practice the measure may answer as well as it appears in theory to me, I will not undertake to say; but I think, if the Indian Trade was carried on, on Government Acct., and with no greater advance than what would be necessary to defray the expence and risk, and bring in a small profit, that it would supply the Indians upon much better terms than they usually are; engross their Trade, and fix them strongly in our Interest; and would be a much better mode of treating them than that of

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giving presents; where a few only are benefitted by them. I confess there is a difficulty in getting a Man, or set of Men, in whose Abilities and integrity there can be a perfect reliance; without which, the scheme is liable to such abuse as to defeat the salutary ends which are proposed from it. At any rate, no person should be suffered to Trade with the Indians without first obtaining a license, and giving security to conform to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed; as was the case before the War.

In giving my Sentiments in the Month of May last (at the request of a Committee of Congress) on a Peace Establishmt. I took the liberty of suggesting the propriety, which in my opinion there appeared, of paying particular attention to the French and other Settlers at Detroit and other parts within the limits of the Western Country; the perusal of a late Pamphlet entitled "Observations on the Commerce of the American States with Europe and the West Indies" impresses the necessity of it more forcibly than ever on my Mind. The author of that Piece strongly recommends a liberal change in the Government of Canada, and tho' he is too sanguine in his expectations of the benefits arising from it, there can be no doubt of the good policy of the measure. It behooves us therefore to counteract them, by anticipation. These People have a disposition towards us susceptible of favorable Impressions; but as no Arts will be left unattempted by the British to withdraw them from our Interest, the prest. moment should be employed by us to fix them in it, or we may loose them forever; and with them, the advantages, or disadvantages consequent of the choice they may make. From the best information and Maps of that Country, it would

appear that from the Mouth of the Great Miami River wch. empties into the Ohio to its confluence with the Mad River, thence by a Line to the Miami Fort and Village on the other Miami River wch. empties into Lake Erie, and Thence by a Line to include the Settlement of Detroit would with Lake Erie to the No. ward Pensa. to the Eastwd. and the Ohio to the Soward form a Governmt. sufficiently extensive to fulfill all the public engagements, and to receive moreover a large population by Emigrants, and to confine The Settlement of the New States within these bounds would, in my opinion, be infinitely better even supposing

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no disputes were to happen with the Indians and that it was not necessary to guard against those other evils which have been enumerated than to suffer the same number of People to roam over a Country of at least 500,000 Square Miles contributing nothing to the support, but much perhaps to the Embarrassment of the Federal Government.

Was it not for the purpose of comprehending the Settlement of Detroit within the Jurisdn. of the New Governmt a more compact and better shaped district for a State would be for the line to proceed from the Miami Fort and Village along the River of that name to Lake Erie. leaving In that case the Settlement of Detroit, and all the Territory No. of the Rivers Miami and St. Josephs between the Lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Michigan to form, hereafter, another State equally large compact and water bounded.

At first view, it may seem a little extraneous, when I am called upon to give an opinion upon the

terms of a Peace proper to be made with the Indians, that I should go into the formation of New States; but the Settltmt. of the Western Country and making a Peace with the Indians are so analogous that there can be no definition of the one without involving considerations of the other. for I repeat it, again, and I am clear in my opinion, that policy and œconomy point very strongly to the expediency of being upon good terms with the Indians, and the propriety of purchasing their Lands in preference to attempting to drive them by force of arms out of their Country; which as we have already experienced is like driving the Wild Beasts of the Forest which will return us soon as the pursuit is at an end and fall perhaps on those that are left there; when the gradual extension of our Settlements will as certainly cause the Savage as the Wolf to retire; both being beasts of prey tho' they differ in shape. In a word there is nothing to be obtained by an Indian War but the Soil they live on and this can be had by purchase at less expence, and without that bloodshed, and those distresses which helpless Women and Children are made partakers of in all kinds of disputes with them.

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If there is any thing in these thoughts (which I have fully and freely communicated) worthy attention I shall be happy and am Sir Yr. etc.

P.S. A formal Address, and memorial from the Oneida Indians when I was on the Mohawk River, setting forth their Grievances and distresses and praying relief, induced me to order a pound of

Powder and 3 lbs. of Lead to be issued to each Man, from the Military Magazines in the care of Colo. Willet; this, I presume, was unknown to Genl. Schuyler at the time he recommended the like measure in his Letter to Congress.

OBSERVATIONS ON AN INTENDED REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON A PEACE ESTABLISHMENT

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Upon a careful examination of the Report delivered to Congress the 17th of June, by the Committee on the Peace Arrangement, the following remarks have occurred:

Notwithstanding there may not be any very essential difference between the proposed *Plan* for a standing Force now under consideration, and the Sketches which were given in my Memorial of the 1st of May; yet it is my wish to make known the Motives which induced me to offer my former opinions, together with the reasons which now lead me to differ in judgment from the Committee in some instances respecting the Peace Arrangement, and to alter my sentiments on other points in consequence of new informations which have been produced by farther discussion.

The principal reasons for my proposing that the Pay and Subsistence of the Officers should remain the same as they now are (except in the instances specified) were, because, that compensation had generally been deemed adequate and not too

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high; and because we had found by experience, after many changes and alterations, the present allowance to be better proportioned to the different grades, more satisfactory to the Officers, and less inconvenient to the Public than any System which had been attempted; Nor can I agree with the Committee that the Establishment reported by them is more oeconomical than either of the Plans which have been proposed, since the number of Men in their Establishment actually to be raised, exceeds that suggested in my Memorial by upwards of four hundred. And the encrease of Pay in consequence of an additional number of Superior Officers in the Corps of Engineers will more than Counterbalance the saving which will be made by the proposed diminution of the Pay of the regimental Staff and Subalterns. And yet I know not whether this encrease of Expence may not be expedient and necessary, at least I should not make any objection to the augmentation of the number of Men in the Infantry Compys, as the various and dispersed services, to which they will be destined, may probably require more than I had taken into my calculation; And the blending the Engineers and Artillerists of the Army in one Corps may make it requisite to add the number of Officers proposed by the Committee; which will under those circumstances justify a departure from the present Artillery Establishment on which my Estimate was founded. And here I will take the liberty to suggest the expediency of restraining all Officers stationed in the Indian Country from carrying on, directly or indirectly, any Commerce or Traffic whatever with the Natives; it would be better to make a pecuniary compensation for any extra trouble of the Commanding Officer, in giving passes and regulating these things,

than to suffer so pernicious a custom to take place.

Perhaps it is rather unimportant in what manner some little alterations shall be decided, as for instance, whether the third Officer of a Compys shall be called a Lt or an Ensign, provided the duties and emoluments are perfectly defined; but I highly approve the Scheme of having supernumeraries appointed to fill the Staff-Offices, without depriving the Compys of their full proportion of Officers.

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The same reason which makes it proper to have two Sergt. Majors &c in each Regt. of Infantry, will also make it equally necessary to have two Surgeons Mates.

It appears to me in case the Pay of the Privates shall be established at two Dollars pr Month, that a considerable Bounty will be required to enlist them, or that the States, after having their quotas apportioned to them, must be obliged to keep their Compliment constantly in Service. I am also of opinion that to the annual allowance of Cloathing pr Man One Blanket, two pair Woolen Hose, and one or two Shirts, should be added; also 8 or 10 Watch Coats pr Company.

The rule of promotion proposed seems unexceptionable; but the perpetual confusion which must ensue, from promotions being made in a Corps composed of Officers and Men of different States, by the Authority of each of those different States, will totally destroy all regularity in our Military System. "It would indeed be much to be preferred that the States could be induced to transfer this right to Congress;" And possibly, upon condition of

confining the appointment and promotion of Officers, in equal proportions to the particular States whose Troops form a Regt. the right might be yeilded; for example if New Hampshire gives two Compys and Massachusetts Six, the Officers then to be appointed and kept in service from those two States to be in as nearly the Ratio of 2 to 6 as possible; the same, if another Regt. should be formed by the States of R Island, Connect. New York and New Jersey &c. &c.

On the Committees' Report respecting Fortifications, Arsenals and Magazines, Military Academies, Founderies and Manufactories, General Staff, and General Hospital no observations are necessary; except that it is the opinion of the Committee, the establishment of five instead of three Magazines, is necessary, I shall not make any hesitation in yielding to their sentiment; I wish not to be too tenacious, tho' the division of the Continent into three districts had been suggested, in addition to the reasons I formerly mentioned, by a similar destribution which Congress had made in the Article of promotion;

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but I must beg leave to remark, that the general outlines for the Establishment of the national Militia, do not seem to me to be so well calculated to answer the object in view, as could be wished. Altho, unacquainted as I am with the Militia Laws of the several States, I cannot undertake to say what particular regulation should be adopted for classing, or forming the great Body of Citizens, who must be borne on the Rolls of the Militia, and for obliging them to march for the public defence in a manner least inconvenient and most effectual; Yet I cannot but think some more eligible Plan could be devised; and I am fully persuaded, that

the Fensibles, Fusileers, or Train Bands formed of the Inhabitants of Cities and Incorporated Towns will not afford that prompt and efficacious resistance to an Enemy, which might be expected from regularly established Light Infantry Companies, or a general selection of the ablest Men from every Regt. or Brigade of Militia in either of the Modes I had formerly the honor to propose; because such an Establishment would, in my opinion, be more agreeable to the genius of our Countrymen; because it would distribute military knowledge and ambition more equally and extensively; because, it would on these Accounts prevent Jealousies, and afford the same kind of protection to every part of the Union, which the Companys designated by the Name of Minute-Men did at the Commencement of the late war; and because, the number being fixed to any proportion from # to 1/50 of the whole Militia, that number of disciplined effective Men may always be relied on in case of a war, as an effectual Barrier to stop the torrent of Hostility, until a regular and permanent force could be levied; And in order to make this Corps the more respectable, I should heartily concur in giving them a superiority of rank, immunities or emoluments over the rest of the Militia.¹⁵

15. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys and David Cobb. (See Sentiments on a Peace Establishment, vol. 26, p. 374.)

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

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Rocky Hill, September 18, 1783.

Sir: The resolve of Congress, enclosed in Your Excellency's favor of Yesterday, for permitting me to have access to the Secret Papers of Congress,²⁸ under the same injunctions as Members; is a high and honourable testimony of the confidence reposed in me by that Honble. Body, and is only to be equalled by the polite and flattering expressions with which you have accompanied it. I have the honor etc.

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Rocky Hill, September 1, 1783.

Sir: The letter from General Duportail of which the enclosure No 1 is a Copy,²⁹ was presented to me yesterday. I beg leave, agreeably to the wishes of these Gentlemen, to recommend their case to the immediate, and serious consideration of Congress.³⁰

I take the liberty also, of laying before Congress, an extract of a Letter No 2 from Majr. Genl Knox, on the Subject of Clothing for the Troops on the North River, together with
28. Sept. 15, 1783. The motion was made by Daniel Carroll and seconded by James McHenry.

On September 18 Washington certified that [Philip] Strubing had served as lieutenant of horse [Von Heer's corps] for four years as "a faithful and deserving Officer." The original of this certificate is in the possession of John K. Strubing, of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

29. The original of this letter, dated Sept. 16, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. It concerns the situation of the French engineers, still with the Army.

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30. Washington replied to Du Portail (September 19) that he had laid his letter before Congress and would transmit its determination without delay. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

my answer to it No 3.31 Congress will readily perceive the necessity there is, of coming to a decision soon, with respect to the Force they mean to provide for.

Perhaps, among the multiplicity of public concerns, an attention to the Situation of the Troops on Furlough, may have yielded to more pressing business; but this being also a matter of importance, I take the liberty of bringing it to view; as, on the footing they stand at present considerable expence without the prospect of an adequate benefit, is incurred; unless the impolicy of giving by public Proclamation, authenticity to the discharges while the British forces remain in New York, can be deemed such. I call them discharges, because it is in this light the Furloughs have all along been considered; and no call, I am perswaded will ever bring the common Soldiery back to their Colours; the whole matter therefore lyes in ballancing properly between the expence of delay and the public annunciation of an epocha which may be premature. I have the honor etc.³²

***To SAMUEL HUNTINGTON⁴⁷**

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Sir: I have perused the Report and

31. This letter from Knox, dated Sept. 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Henry Knox. Sept. 17, 1783.)

32. This letter was read in Congress on September 19 and referred to Samuel Huntington, Elbridge Gerry, and James Duane.

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47. Chairman of the Committee of Congress to prepare a proclamation for disbanding the Army.

Proclamation which you were pleased to put into my hands for consideration; and think an alteration in the first, and a consequent one in the other, indispensably necessary; Because, as the report now stands, it is not broad enough to comprehend the several cases which exist. for the Troops of the Southern Army were furloughed by General Green; whilst those, which lay in a manner between the two armies, were under the more immediate direction of the Secretary at War, and acted upon by him.

It appears to me proper therefore, to strike out the latter part of the Report and after the Words “during the War” in the third line, to insert. “and who by the resolutions of Congress of the—and of—were entitled to Furloughs be absolutely discharged from the said Service, from and after the — day of — next.”

The Proclamation conforming thereto, Congress may, if they conceive there is a propriety in it, (after the necessary recitals are made) offer their thanks to the Army, *generally*, for its long and faithful Services; and then add; that the further Services in the field of the Officers who have been deranged and retired on furloughs in consequence of the aforesaid resolutions, can now be dispensed with; That they have the permission of Congress to retire from Service; and that they are no longer liable from their present Engagements to be called into Command again.

I can see no greater inconvenience resulting from this measure than is to be found in many other instances, arising from not making the Peace Establishment a primary, instead of a subsequent Act, to them; for had this taken place in

time, a system might have been formed, and every thing relative to that *system* made to accord with it, whereas the longer it is delayed the more incongruous probably it will be, as we are by this means forming the extremities, before we have moulded the body.

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consequently the body must be made to conform, and grow to the limbs, not the limbs to the Body which may be found as difficult in the Political as Natural formation of things, and like thereunto the attempt more than probably will produce a Monster.

A Proclamation couched in some such terms as I have here suggested would I think, reduce all the General as well as other Officers except those who were retained with the three Years Men, and such as are immediately employed in the Staff wch. I think consists of only Baron de Steuben and G: Duportail and would moreover I think, leave out all the Engineers for the future decision of Congress. I have the honor etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency Copy of a Letter⁶¹ I have received from Colonel Kosciusko on the subject of his promotion.

The general promotion now before

61. A copy of the letter from Kosciuszko of September 26 is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

Congress, should it take place, would have included him; but this does not seem to be his wish; as a Foreigner I suppose a particular promotion would be more consonant to his views and interest, and from my knowledge of his Merit and services, and the concurrent testimony of all who know him I cannot but recommend him as deserving the favor of Congress.⁶² With great respect etc.⁶³

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, October 3, 1783.

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Dear Sir: When the Men inlisted for the War were sent home on furlough, not being able to do without a small detachment of Horse, a Sergeant, Corporal and Eight of Van Heers Dragoons were prevailed on to remain a Month or two longer. They have been extremely faithful and serviceable; but their detention being much longer than was expected, and not receiving any immediate recompense for their voluntary service they begin to be uneasy; and without

62. On October 3 Washington wrote briefly to Kosciuszko that his letter of September 26 had been forwarded to Congress. "I heartily wish your application to meet with success." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

63. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on October 4 and referred to Jacob Read, Richard Peters, and James Duane.

something is done for them will certainly quit me. As I cannot possibly do without them whilst I remain here, I could wish some little pay might be advanced them, say a couple of Months; the sum would be trifling, and would induce them to stay as long as they shall be wanted. What gives them an additional claim to this is that they laid out the greatest part of their three Months pay in Cloathing which they are now expending in public Service.⁶⁸

68. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, November 4, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I return you the Subsistence Roll of the Officers of the Hospital Department.

Dr. Craik having retired, does not I dare say expect to be continued on the list. As to the rest it is impossible for me to judge of the necessity of their services; some of them

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might doubtless be dispensed with. I will write immediately to the Director General on the Subject, and transmit you his

Answer so soon as I receive it. I have the honor, etc.³⁶

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, November 8, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am favored with your Letter of yesterday respecting Mr. Taulman⁵³ of the Sappers and Miners.

I am not able to give any positive opinion whether or not that Gentleman is entitled to the Commission he solicits. The very small number of Men in the Corps, rendered it not necessary to fill any Vacancies in the Officers; his claim therefore, must rest on what has been the practice in the Corps in similar cases, which I do not recollect; if promotions have been made in it in consequence of vacancies, doubtless Mr. Taulman is entitled to the same favor which has been shewn to others.

In consequence of your Letter to me on the Subject of the Invalids, I ordered an Inspection of them; many have been discharged, with and without the Pension; there remains those who chuse to go to West Point and some who cannot

⁵³. Capt.-Lieut. Peter Taulman.

be removed. I have to request you to give directions for procuring a passage for the former, and the latter I have requested Baron Steuben to provide for in the best manner he can. I enclose you my letter to the Baron, which, after perusal, you will please to Seal and forward. I am, etc.⁵⁴

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

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West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have the satisfaction to congratulate you on the near approach of the evacuation of New York, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton will give you all the information I am possessed of on the subject.

Knowing, as I do, the embarrassed state of our Finances, I should not at this time have troubled you with the representation⁷² of the Officers now in service, had not a sense of their extreme distress overcome every other consideration. With an earnest recommendation of their circumstances,

54. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

72. The representation, a copy of which was sent to Morris, is dated Nov. 17, 1783, and is signed by Maj. Gen. John Paterson, Col. M[ichael] Jackson, and Lieut. Col. E[benezer] Sprout, and is in the *Washington Papers*. It petitioned for their arrears of pay.

I submit the practicability of complying with the proposal; but at the same time I must inform that, as soon as the event mentioned in the former part of the Letter shall have taken place, I shall reduce the force in this quarter very considerably, which will lessen the public expenditures in the same proportion, and I should hope would enable you to pay some attention to the enclosed representation.⁷³

To JOSEPH CARLETON⁷¹

November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have reced your Letter of the 12th Instant. No. Arrangements have taken place in consequence of the Resolution of 26th September, other than the discharge of a great many Men whose times have been expired or near expiring, and many Sick and Invalids as the late returns will shew. The last Weekly return is inclosed for your information.

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Sheldons Cavalry, who have all been on furlough are discharged from the 20th of this Month and so soon as the British are gone

73. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 3 Washington sent a copy of Morris's reply (dated November 27) to Paterson, Jackson, and Sprout. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*, as is the original of Morris's letter.

71. Secretary to the Secretary of War.

a very considerable reduction, of the troops now here, will take place.⁷⁰

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have at length the pleasure to inform your Excellency and Congress, that Sir Guy Carleton has fixed upon the time at which he proposes to evacuate the City of New York; the particulars are more fully explain'd in his Letter of the 12 instant a Copy of which, together with my answer are inclosed.⁷⁴ I have the honor etc.⁷⁵

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

New York, December 3, 1783.

In my last Letter to your Excellency I had the honor to acquaint Congress with the arrangement Sir Guy Carleton

74. Copies of Carleton's letter of November 12 and Washington's reply of November 14 are filed with the letter from Washington. The original of Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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75. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on December 13.

had made for the Evacuation of New York on the 23 Ultó., I have now to inform you that the Embarkation was postponed two days on account of the badness of the Weather.

On the 25 of November the British Troops left this City and a Detachment of our Army marched into it. The Civil Power was immediately put in possession, and I have the happiness to assure you that the most perfect regularity and good order have prevailed ever since; on which pleasing events I congratulate your Excellency and Congress.

A Copy of the last letter I have reced from Sir Guy Carleton is inclosed. With the highest respect etc.

P. S. Your favor of the 23 Ultó. is just come to hand.⁹⁸

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Annapolis, December 20, 1783.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity to inform Congress of my arrival in this City,⁵⁴ with the intention of asking leave to resign the Commission I have the honor of holding in their Service. It is essential for me to know

⁹⁸. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

⁵⁴. Washington arrived in Annapolis on December 19. From Walker's memorandum of expense on the road from Philadelphia to Annapolis, the route was: Chester, Wilmington, Head of Elk, Susquehanna Ferry, Bush Town, Leggits, Baltimore, Mrs. Urquhart's, and Annapolis. This memorandum, dated Dec. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

their pleasure, and in what manner it will be most proper to offer my resignation, whether in writing, or at an Audience; I shall therefore request to be honored with the necessary

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information, that being apprized of the sentiments of Congress I may regulate my Conduct accordingly. I have the honor etc.⁵⁵

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Annapolis, December 21, 1783.

Sir: In my last dispatch to your Excellency, I had the honor to inform Congress, that the American Troops had taken possession of the City of New York, and had delivered it to the Government of the State; and that the British Troops had retired to Staten and Long Islands. I had also the honor to inclose to you Sir Guy Carletons last letter, informing me of his intention to take his final departure from the Continent, with the Troops under his Command, on the 4th. of this month.

As there was no longer a

⁵⁵. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

necessity for retaining so many Troops in service for the Posts at present in our possession, and as the terms of service of the men were expiring so fast, that 1500 or 2000 would have been discharged by June next, I thought it most consistent with the state of our public affairs, to lessen the expence as soon as possible, and therefore gave directions to Major General Knox before I left New York, to reduce the whole of the Troops, to one Batallion of Infantry of 500 Rank and file, and about 100 Artillery, and these to be of the Men who had the longest time to serve.

To carry this arrangement into effect, and to collect and put into a state of preservation the Ordnance and other valuable Military Stores belonging to the United States, it was necessary there should be some Officer of Rank and abilities, and as the latter business was in the particular line of General Knox, and none understood or could attend to it so

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well, I directed that Officer to continue in command, untill the further pleasure of Congress should be made known to him.

Among the Officers of the Army who have been obliged to retire at the conclusion of the War, are many who from various motives

are desirous of being arranged on any Peace Establishment that may take place.⁵⁶ I take the liberty to lay before Congress the several applications that have been made to me on the subject, and in addition to the testimony which accompanies them, I can only add mine, that most of the Gentlemen, whose names are on the list, are personally known to me as some of the best Officers who were in the Army.

Before I left the Northward, Brigr. General Michl. Jackson delivered me a Memorial⁵⁷ which he requested me to lay before Congress: but as, from some accident, it has been mislaid, I will take the liberty of mentioning the purport of it to that honorable Body. This Officer in 1776 when Major of one of the Massachusetts Regiments, received a Wound in one of his Legs, at the attack on Montresors Island, which ever since and still continues to be extremely painfull and inconvenient to him, and totally incapacitates him from any Violent exercise; he has a large family and solicits some further provision. At the time I promised to lay his Memorial before Congress, I gave him my opinion that it was not probable the

56. A list of these officers accompanies this letter from Washington. They are: Col. Richard Butler; Lieutenant Colonels Harmar and Mentges, of Pennsylvania; Smith, of New York, and Humphreys, of Connecticut; Majors Moore, of Pennsylvania, and Hamtranck, of New York; Captains Fowler and Vandenburgh, of New York; Bowen, Zeigler, McCully, and Armstrong, of Pennsylvania; Singleton of Virginia, and Dyer, of Maryland; and Lieutenant Armstrong, of Pennsylvania.

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57. Jackson's Memorial (Nov. 8, 1783) is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 41, vol. 4, 463.

subject would not be taken up partially, but that some general provision might be made for all under the same circumstances. A Petition of the like nature has been shewn me from some Wounded Officers of the Corps of Invalids.

I have the honor to transmit your Excellency a Letter from General Wayne, with sundry papers accompanying it,⁵⁸ also a Letter from General McIntosh, and one from, General Du Portail in favor of Captain Castaing.⁵⁹

It having become necessary last Spring to send some Troops into West Chester County in the State of New York to take possession of that part of it which the British had evacuated, and to support the Magistrates in reestablishing the Civil Government of the State, Colonel Hull was sent on that service, and from the particular nature of it was put to much additional expence, he has applied to me to be reimbursed, but altho' I think his demand of 24 dollars p Month during five Months he was on that service just and reasonable, I could only recommend him to Congress, which I now take the liberty of doing. With great respect I have the honor etc.

P.S. I must take the liberty to mention that Colonel Richard Butler, in case he cannot be employed on a Peace Establishment would be glad to be appointed a Commissioner for Indian Affairs; from the knowledge I have of his Character I

58. See Washington's letter to Anthony Wayne, Dec. 14, 1783, *ante*. Copies of the papers concerning Wayne's operations in Georgia, with copies by Wayne of his letters to Washington, are filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

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59. Capt. Peter Castaing. He was aide to Du Portail, whose letter of Nov. 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

think him a proper person for that Employ and as such beg leave to recommend him to Congress.⁶⁰

60. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on December 22.

***ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON RESIGNING HIS COMMISSION**

[Annapolis, December 23, 1783.]

Mr. President: The great events on which my resignation depended having at length taken place; I have now the honor of offering my sincere Congratulations to Congress and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the Service of my Country.

Happy in the confirmation of our Independence and Sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable Nation, I resign with satisfaction the Appointment I accepted with diffidence. A diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our Cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The Successful termination of the War has verified the most sanguine expectations, and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have

received from my Countrymen, encreases with every review of the momentous Contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the Army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place the peculiar Services and distinguished merits of

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the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the War. It was impossible the choice of confidential Officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me Sir, to recommend in particular those, who have continued in Service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my Official life, by commending the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping.

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of Action; and bidding an Affectionate farewell to this August body under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.⁶⁸

68. From the draft in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress. A fair copy, by Humphreys, signed and dated by Washington, is in the *Washington Papers*.

A committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, Elbridge Gerry, and James McHenry, reported to Congress, December 22, that—

“1. The President and members are to be seated and covered, and the secretary to be standing by the side of the President.

“2. The arrival of the General is to be announced by the messenger to the secretary, who is thereupon to introduce the General attended by his aids to the Hall of Congress.

“3. The General being conducted to a chair by the secretary is to be seated with an aid on each side, standing, and the secretary is to resume his place.

“4. After a proper time for the arrangement of spectators, silence is to be ordered by the secretary, if necessary, and the President is to address the general in the following words:

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“Sir, The United States in Congress assembled are prepared to receive your communications.’

“Where upon the General is to arise and address Congress, after which he is to deliver his Commission and a copy of his address to the President.

“5. The General having resumed his place, the President is to deliver the answer of Congress, which the General is to receive standing.

“6. The President having finished, the secretary is to deliver the General a copy of the answer, and the General is then to take his leave.

“When the General rises to make his address, and also when he retires, he is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing.”

For the answer of the President, see the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Dec. 23, 1783. A copy, in the writing of Charles Thomson, and signed by him, is in the *Washington Papers*.

James Tilton wrote to Gunning Bedford, from Annapolis, on Christmas day:

“The General came to town last friday, and announced his arrival, by a letter to congress, requesting to know, in what manner they chused he should resign his authority; whether by private letter or public audience? The latter was preferred without hesitation. Some etiquette being settled on saturday, a public dinner was ordered on monday and the audience to be on tuesday. The feast on monday was the most extraordinary I ever attended. Between 2 and 3 hundred Gentn: dined together in the *ball-room*. The number of cheerful voices,, with the clangor of knives and forks made a din of a very extraordinary nature and most delightful influence. Every man seemed to be in heaven or so absorbed in the pleasures of imagination, as to neglect the more sordid appetites, for not a soul got drunk, though there was wine in plenty and the usual number of 13 toasts drank,

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besides one given afterwards by the General which you ought to be acquainted with: it is as follows. 'Competent powers to congress for general purposes.'

"In the evening of the same day, the Governor gave a ball at the State House. To light the rooms every window was illuminated. Here the company was equally numerous, and more brilliant, consisting of ladies and Gentn: Such was my villanous awkwardness, that I could not venture to dance on this occasion, you must therefore annex to it a cleverer Idea, than is to be expected from such a mortified whelp as I am. The General danced every set, that all the ladies might have the pleasure of dancing with him, or as it has since been handsomely expressed, *get a touch of him*.

"Tuesday morning, Congress met, and took their seats in order, all covered. At twelve o'clock the General was introduced by the Secretary, and seated opposite to the president, until the throng, that filled all the avenues, were so disposed of so as to behold the solemnity. The ladies occupied the gallery as full as it would hold, the Gentn: crouded below stairs. Silence ordered, by the Secretary, the Genl. rose and bowed to congress, who uncovered, but did not bow. He then delivered his speech, and at the close of it drew his commission from his bosem and handed it to the president. The president replied in a set speech, the General bowed again to Congress, they uncovered and the General retired. After a little pause until the company withdrew, Congress adjourned. The General then stepped into the room again, bid every member farewell and rode off from the door, intent upon eating his christmas dinner at home. Many of the spectators, particularly the fair ones shed tears, on this solemn and affecting occasion. Sir Robert Eden and Mr. William Harford attended very respectfully. They were also at the public dinner and the dance."

From the text of the original kindly furnished by Guy Stonestreet, of New York City.